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HIGH HONORS FOR MARIA MIRECKA LORYS PAGE 8

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

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 BAD HISTORY: BIKONT'S "CRIME AND SILENCE" • IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY FOR SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND
 GUZLOWSKI SHARES THE RAW TRUTH • MISNOMERS: WŁADYSŁAW AND JADWIGA ARE NOT WALTER AND HARRIET

Newsmark

SZYDŁO: NO REFUGEES AFTER BOMBING. Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło said Warsaw would not take in its share of migrants under an EU plan because of the jihadist attacks that killed 31 people in Brussels.

Poland became the first EU member to take such a step after the bombings at the Brussels airport and metro, which also left 270 wounded — including three Poles — and were claimed by the Islamic State group.

“After what happened in Brussels yesterday, it’s not possible right now to say that we’re OK with accepting any number of migrants at all,” Szydło told television Superstacja.

Her Law and Justice (PiS) government had earlier been willing to welcome the 7,000 refugees agreed by its liberal predecessors under Ewa Kopacz.

Europe is grappling with its worst migrant crisis since World War II. Last year alone some 1.2 million people flooded into the EU, most of them Syrians fleeing via Turkey and Greece.

“We’re forced above all to ensure the security of our fellow citizens,” Szydło said. “Our stance is very cautious, which gives rise to major criticism from other countries in what we call the old EU, who hastily agreed to this influx of migrants into Europe.”

“This carelessness is the source of the problems we now face,” she said.



“CONSPIRACY” MAKES THE CUT. James Conroyd Martin’s *The Warsaw Conspiracy*, has made the cut from the Finalist to the First Place category in the 2015 Chaucer awards, given to works of historical fiction.

Chaucer finalists compete for the First In Category positions, which consists of Four Judging Rounds. First Place category award winners are automatically entered into the Grand Prize award competition, which has a cash prize of \$250 or \$500 dollars in editorial services. The CBR Grand Prize Genre Winners will compete for the CBR Overall Grand Prize for Best Book and its \$1,000 purse.

The Warsaw Conspiracy, a saga set against the November Rising (1830-31), is competing with over 60 other works for the top spot.

The Chaucer awards are part of the Chanticleer Awards International Writing Competitions.

The Grand Prize winner will be announced April 30.

TIGHTENING UP. Poland will increase security for two major international events taking place this summer. Interior Minister Mariusz Błaszczak said an extra 13,000 police, border guards, border control points and other officers will be deployed during both events.

Poland hosts a NATO summit July 8-9 at Warsaw’s National Stadium, at which approximately 2,500 delegates — including heads of state, and government leaders of both the European Union, and the United Nations — will convene. Millions of pilgrims are expected in Poland from July 25-31 to participate in the Roman Catholic Church’s World Youth Days. Pope Francis is expected to attend that event.

POWALSKI ON TOP NATO BOARD. Colonel Marek Powalski has been chosen as the next head of NATO’s Resource Policy and Planning Board (RPPB), an influential body that oversees the military alliance’s budget.

Powalski will take up his new post on September 1 this year. He will be the first officer from the Central and Eastern European countries that joined NATO after the collapse of communism to assume the position. Poland joined the military alliance in 1999.

The RPPB is the senior advisory body to the North Atlantic Council on the management of all NATO resources. It is responsible for managing NATO’s civil and military budgets.

Poland’s Government Ignores Constitutional Tribunal

by Beata Stur
NewEurope

WARSAW — Poland’s Constitutional Tribunal — the country’s top legislative body ruling on the constitutionality of laws — has ruled that the recent changes made by the new government have neutered it. But the ruling is being ignored by the government.

As reported by *Deutsche Welle* (DW), Germany’s international broadcaster, the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government, which won a majority at parliamentary elections in October, moved fast to amend the law on how the Constitutional Tribunal functions. The government refused to recognize three judges chosen by the previous government.

“This will likely worsen the Polish government’s reputation abroad and increase divisions and tensions within society,” Gavin Rae, a sociologist at Kozminski University in Warsaw told DW.

Prime Minister Beata Szydło, however, explained on March 7 why her government would not accept the court’s ruling. She said the outgoing Civic Platform (PO) government had politicized the tribunal as an attempt to impede

See “Tribunal,” page 3

Back on Broadway



PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

JANE KRAKOWSKI RETURNS TO THE NEW YORK STAGE this season in the Roundabout Theatre Company’s remounting of the 1963 musical *She Loves Me*. Best known for her portrayal of Jenna Maroney on *30 Rock*, which netted her four Emmy nominations, and more recently as Jacqueline Voorhees on the Netflix series *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, Krakowski is getting back to her theatrical roots with the revival.

This is her first time on the Broadway boards in more than a decade. Krakowski won a Tony Award for her performance in the Roundabout Theatre Company production of *Nine*, and an Oliver Award in London’s productions of *Guys and Dolls*.

The limited engagement will play through June 5 at Studio 54 on Broadway, 254 West 54th Street. — Stas Kmiec

Bl. Stanislaus Papczyński to be Canonized

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has approved the canonization of Mother Teresa. Poland’s Jan Papczynski, Sweden’s Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad, José Gabriel del Rosario of Argentina, and Mexico’s José Luis Sánchez.

The Vatican announced the approval of a miracle attributed to the intercession of Bl. Stanislaus — the Founder of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary — on Jan. 21 of this year. His intercession healed a 20-year-old Polish woman shortly after his beatification in 2007. The woman, suffering from a respiratory problems, and near death, was taken off life support. After a novena to Bl. Stanislaus, she regained full health.

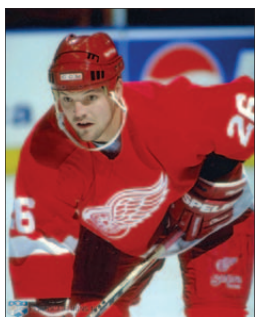
A medical team of the Holy See reviewed the case, and on Sept. 17, 2015 (coincidentally, the 314th anniversary of his death), the team unanimously affirmed that the woman’s cure has no natural or scientific explanation. On Nov. 10, a team of theologians declared the healing occurred through the intercession of Bl. Stanislaus. The Congregation for the Causes of the Saints approved the miracle on Jan. 13.

Pope Francis will declare Bl. Stanislaus a saint on June 5. Mother Teresa will be canonized on Sept. 4.

Sports Hall of Fame Inductees Announced



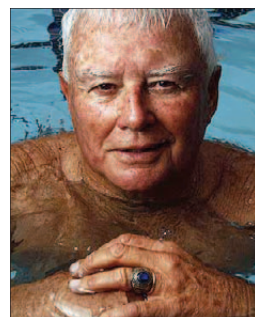
Drysdale



Kocur



Marcol



Nitzkowski



Adamowicz

by Tom Tarapacki
TROY, Mich. — Former pro basketball player **Ann Meyers Drysdale**, veteran hockey player **Joe Kocur**, pro football placekicker **Chester Marcol**, longtime college water polo coach **Monte Nitzkowski** and sports car driver **Tony Adamowicz** have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of

Fame for 2016. Ann Meyers Drysdale has an incredible record of accomplishment in women’s basketball. She was a four-time All-American basketball player at UCLA and led the Bruins to the national championship in 1978. Ann played on the 1976 Olympic team that won silver, and went on to become the number one

pick in the Women’s Pro Basketball League in 1978. She was named league co-MVP in 1980. The 5’9” guard is probably best remembered as the first woman to sign a contract with an NBA team, which she did with Indiana in 1979.

Joe Kocur was a rugged forward drafted in 1983 by the Detroit Red Wings with the 88th overall pick. Kocur

played 15 seasons in the National Hockey League with the Red Wings, New York Rangers and Vancouver Canucks. The 6-ft. 220-lb. right winger was a three-time Stanley Cup Champion, first with the Rangers in 1994, and in 1997 and 1998 during his second stint with the Red Wings. Nicknamed “KO,” Kocur and See “Hall of Fame,” page 12

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April Kwiecień

"Help all without discrimination,
friend and foe alike. Everyone is
our neighbor."

— Blessed Mother
Angela Truszkowska

1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Prima Aprilis is marked in Poland by people playing pranks on one another. The media join in and intersperse their news reports with various tall tales and tongue-in-cheek misinformation intended to confuse and amuse.

2005. Death of **St. John Paul II**.
1849. Death of Polish poet and dramatist **Juliusz Słowacki**, in Paris.

1794. Polish forces under Tadeusz Kosciuszko are victorious in the **Battle of Raclawice**.

1953. Birth of champion figure skater **Janet (Nowicki) Lynn**.

1525. Signing of the **Treaty of Kraków**, officially ending the Polish-Teutonic War.

1943. Mass graves of Polish officers murdered by Soviet security forces are discovered at **Katyn**. The discovery was announced five days later.

1941. In **Czestochowa**, Nazis create a ghetto for Jews. By the end of World War II some 45,000 of Czestochowa's Jews were murdered by the Germans, almost the entire Jewish community living there.

1525. **Prussian Homage**, the formal investment of Albert of Prussia as duke of the Polish fief of Ducal Prussia.

1909. Birth of **Stanislaw Ulan**, Polish American mathematician who assisted in the development of the hydrogen bomb.

1430. A band of Hussites raided the monastery at **Czestochowa**, Poland, and robbed it of its precious artifacts.

1793. The **Battle of Warsaw**, incited when the Russians attempt to arrest those suspected of supporting the insurrection and to disarm the Polish garrison of Warsaw. Poles, in turn, led an uprising against the Russian garrison of Warsaw.

1993. Beatification of **Mother Mary Truszkowska**, founder of the Felician Sisters.

1794. **Kosciusko's** forces rout last Russian troops out of Warsaw.

23 ST. ADALBERT

25 ST. MARK

Jeśli na Marka żaba

się odżywa,

to ciepła wiosna

rychło przybywa.

If frogs are heard on

St. Mark's Day,

a warm spring is on its way.

1941. **No. 307 Polish Squadron** of the Royal Air Force arrives in Exeter, England and defends that region for almost two years.

1925. Birth of panorama painter **Adam Styka**, whose works include "The Battle of Raclawice," and the largest religious painting in the United States depicting the crucifixion of Jesus. It hangs at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, Calif.

1863. Birth of **Maria Teresa Ledochowski**, foundress of the Sisters of St. Peter Claver, an order dedicated to missionary work in Africa.

1632. Death of **Sigismund III Waza**

1980. President Jimmy Carter appoints **Sen. Edmund Muskie** as U.S. Secretary of State.

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FORUM / Stanislaw Bokota

PiS: Savior or Ruin of Poland?

The uproar over Jarosław Kaczyński meddling with the Constitutional Court and public media has stirred many emotions here, in Poland, and in the European Union (EU) (*Polish American Journal*, Feb. 2016).

The fact that PiS (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość, the Law and Justice Party) won majority in both chambers of parliament, for the first time since 1991, was not necessarily a mandate for Kaczyński's government to undermine the constitution, attempt to dilute prerogatives of the Constitutional Court, and secure control over the media. No one should be shocked that some American and European press, among them the *Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Spiegel*, and many more, had expressed concerns over the internal events in Poland, and were astonished at Kaczyński fermenting open hostility towards the West.

Foreign Affairs magazine published an excellent analysis written by Polish historian Adam Zamoyski, as well as numerous reports from Warsaw on puzzling developments there. Indeed some commentators alluded to the extreme PiS political philosophy, its ultra right-wing

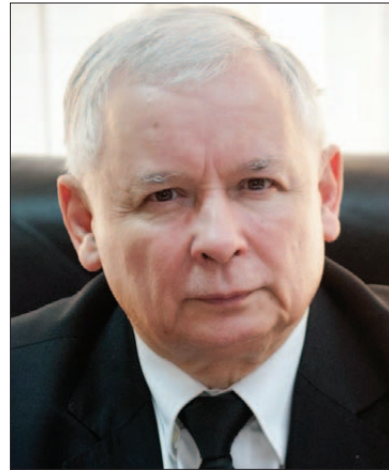
No one should be shocked that some American and European press, among them the *Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Spiegel*, and many more, had expressed concerns over the internal events in Poland, and were astonished at Kaczyński fermenting open hostility towards the West.

nationalism, multiple social and religious prejudices, antisemitism, intolerance inherent in this party and fueled by the unliked "apostle of hate," Father Tadeusz Rydzik, who spews his brand of societal culture on the airwaves of *Radio Maryja*. Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz attempted to remove Rydzik from managing the station, but failed due to the neutrality of Vatican and the division among the bishops of Poland, which created many other issues, this time for the Polish Catholic church.

The key element of PiS programs is derived from the vision of the post-war communist regime. Some observers of Polish affairs assert that the Polish society is divided by those who wish to discard their gruesome past

and look forward to the future, and the others, who remain firmly convinced Poland was a victim, was wronged, and thus consider themselves victims. The latter look to PiS as party of choice. Besides those who consider themselves victims, PiS attracts followers who lack modern education, the elasticity to adapt to the new, 21st century regime, to compete in an open-free market, and rely on personal, individual initiative and skills. Some among them belong to the generation reminiscing the deceptive, demoralizing communist welfare system "czy się stoi, czy się leży, tysiąc złotych się należy." (A saying from the 1960s, suggesting whether or not you work (literally, "stand" or "lay"), you are eligible for \$1,000 in monthly benefits from the government. — ed.) They are addicted to government assistance and are attracted to PiS. A good number of Polish farmers, peasants, (not different from the other countries), feel they are underpaid, disregarded and unappreciated by society, and are thus malcontent, while seeking government subsidies. They too go for PiS.

What has been going on in Poland of late is not conducive to her



LAW AND JUSTICE (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość — PiS) party chairman Jarosław Kaczyński. His meddling with the Constitutional Court and public media stirred many emotions here, in Poland, and in the European Union.

Some influential Western European politicians are wondering whether the expansion of EU and admission of Eastern European countries made sense. They even consider benefits of returning to the original relatively culturally and ethnically western group and without the baggage of the Soviet experience and, potential future conflicts with Russia. Therefore, it is absolute insanity and blind arrogance to hate the West, capitalism, and the free market, and to paint Angela Merkel — the pro-Poland chancellor of Germany — as Hitler. It is outrageous for Foreign Minister Zbigniew Ziobro, alluding to World War II, to state that Germans once again want to exert control over Poland, and for Kaczyński to declare that "no words, especially those uttered by Germans, will not stop PiS on their way to justice."

Exactly what justice, ethnic and political cleansing, does he mean? There is no surprise here. The leader of PiS himself calls the opposition "traitors," and worse "Scum of the Earth." Noted in the comments, and articles defending PiS actions was the absence of any reference to Radio Maryja's Father Rydzik.

All things being equal, Poland has no choice but to join the West and become a faithful and deserving partner. And Poles must make decision whom they like better: the Western decadence with its values hostile to Polish-Christian tradition (as PiS sees it), free market and "unscrupulous capitalism," or the Siberian waste. Tough, isn't it?

But true.

Since 966, Poland has been striving for a true and unequivocally western-Christian-European membership. She has been backing up her claim through literature, architecture, diplomacy, and, certainly, Polish arms. For centuries, the latter defended Europe from the invasion and destruction by Eastern hordes, reinforcing claim of being "a defensive wall of Christianity" (*Przedmurze chrześcijaństwa*). In 1920, in the war against the Bolsheviks, Poland once again saved Europe from tyranny. Yet unequivocal membership is still elusive. Western Europe views Poland with some reservation, suspicion, and indulgence. It often refers to Poland as a former communist country. In recent years, Poland came very close to the recognition of being a pivotal European, democratic country with sizable and growing economy, strong, modern military, and its dynamic population. Its former Prime Minister was named president of the EU. These accomplishments came at a price. Since the Barcełowicz Plan, introduced in January 1, 1990, Poland has discarded its Soviet type of social, political, and economic system, introduced a capitalist market economy, cut out or reduced most government subsidies, and implemented a variety of other reforms. Poles worked hard and sacrificed much. The transition was painful and still is not over.

Finally, Poland had recovered from the Soviet cancer, and had been breathing with relief, happiness, and hope for the future. She has been moving in the right direction prior to October 2015. One would think the nation would cherish its hard-earned accomplishments and rightful position in the world. Yet, here came Kaczyński and his PiS, jealous of its rival's accomplishments, oblivious to reality, offering nothing of substance and manifesting the mediaeval mentality. PiS trots with gusto towards the destruction of the country, bewildering all well-wishers of Poland.

Once on a trade mission to Poland, attempting to understand a controversial position created by a Polish government agency, I asked an American diplomat "why are they doing it?" His answer was quick and to the point: "Because they are Poles."

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Tribunal:

covered from cover

event they lost the election.

“For the government to say in advance it will not accept the tribunal’s ruling is serious,” Nicholas Richardson, a British lawyer practicing in Warsaw, told DW. “By definition, the tribunal is the final arbiter on the constitution and the validity of laws in Poland and for any government simply to ignore its rulings has profound implications for the rule of law and the protection of the citizen from the arbitrary exercise of power by the state.”

According to the tribunal’s president, Andrzej Rzeplinski, the constitution gives the tribunal the right to examine the new law, while the government says it cannot because the new law means that the court only has 12 sitting judges and therefore not enough for a quorum.

The European Commission investigated whether the recent reforms of the tribunal are in line with the rule of law. It asked the government to publish its findings.

“The government maintains its position that it cannot publish a ruling of certain judges of the Constitutional Tribunal which is not based on the law,” government spokesman Rafał Bochenek argued.

In a separate report, *The Wall Street Journal* said the United States is putting pressure on the Polish government to recognize the court’s rulings. But Poland has remained unbowed.

Jaroslav Kaczynski, the leader of the Law and Justice party, has rejected the pleas from abroad, comparing them to pressure put on Poland’s governments by the Soviet Union during the communist era, reported the newspaper.

Duda Meets U.S. Senators

KRAKOW — Polish President Andrzej Duda met with a delegation of five U.S. senators, March 19, to discuss “geopolitical issues” faced by the two countries, the presidential office said. The two-hour informal meeting at a Kraków restaurant on Saturday was “a long, good conversation about international politics,” said top presidential aide Krzysztof Szczerski.

The U.S. delegation was made up of five senators: Republicans Dan Coats and Richard Burr, independent Angus S. King, Jr., and

Democrats Mark Warner and Barbara Mikulski. The latter is of Polish origin.

Media reports ahead of the meeting, which was called by the U.S. senators, said that the politicians were likely to discuss the constitutional crisis which has engulfed Poland.

Dozens of activists from the Committee for the Defence of Democracy (KOD) stood outside the Kraków restaurant which hosted the meeting and shouted “Constitution” when President Duda left the meeting. (*Radio Poland*).

Jack Black to Star in and Produce Jan Lewan Biopic *The Man Who Would Be Polka King*

LOS ANGELES — Jack Black is set to produce and star in *The Man Who Would Be Polka King*. It is based on Joshua Brown and John Mikulak’s documentary of the same name, which follows the rise and fall of entertainer Jan Lewan.



Black

Maya Forbes and Wally Wolodarsky (Infinitely Polar Bear) write and direct the amazing true life story. Permut Presentations, Red Hour Films and Shivhans Pictures are beginning pre-production on the project ahead of a July start date.

Originally from Poland, Lewan — nee Lewandowski — defected to Canada in the early 1970s while performing with a Polish musical

group, before settling in the United States, where he became an American citizen by the mid-1980s. In time, he went from playing small Polish clubs and churches at night — while also holding down a day job in a hotel — to setting up his own orchestra and moving on to play venues like the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. He even landed a Grammy nomination.

As his fame grew, he would organize trips to still-Communist Poland for his fans. While there he would buy souvenirs at Soviet-era prices and bring them back.

To raise money to buy more souvenirs, he started offering unregistered promissory notes at guaranteed 12% interest. His ponzi scheme would force him to declare bankruptcy, and he was sent to jail for fleecing millions of dollars from investors in multiple states.

— Ali Jaafar / *Deadline Hollywood*

Polish Theatre Company in U-M Residency

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Copernicus Program in Polish Studies (CPPS) and School of Music, Theatre and Dance at the University of Michigan announced the residency of Theatre of the Eighth Day (Teatr Ósmego Dnia), a company from Poznań, Poland, recognized as a leader among alternative theatres.

In March, the Theatre of the Eighth Day delivered three performances of its recent work “The Files,” created after the company gained access to their own secret police surveillance files, released after the fall of the Soviet satellite regime in Poland. Ewa Wójciak, actor and director of the company, delivered the 2016 Annual Copernicus Lecture “Breaking Boundaries before and after Censorship: A Personal Story of When and How You Should Say No.”

Theatre of the Eighth Day was founded in 1964 and soon became one of the most significant alternative student theatre troupes in Poland. Its name derives from the Polish poet K.I. Gałczyński, who wrote that: “On the seventh day, the Lord God rested, and on the eighth, He created theatre.”

For 25 years, and despite constant surveillance by the secret police and government censorship, Theatre of the Eighth Day managed to create some of the most important works for the Polish stage.

The residency is part of a semester-long focus at CPPS on Polish theatre. CPPS at the University of Michigan was established in 2014 after 40 years of activity and programs offered by the Nicolaus Copernicus Endowment.

CPPS enables faculty appoint-

ments, programming, and student fellowships in Polish studies. It also organizes the Annual Copernicus Lecture—established in 1980—which brings prominent academic, cultural, and political figures to campus to offer the public a deeper understanding of Poland’s people, culture, and history, as well as its growing influence in world academics, arts, and affairs.

For more information, visit ii.umich.edu/crees.

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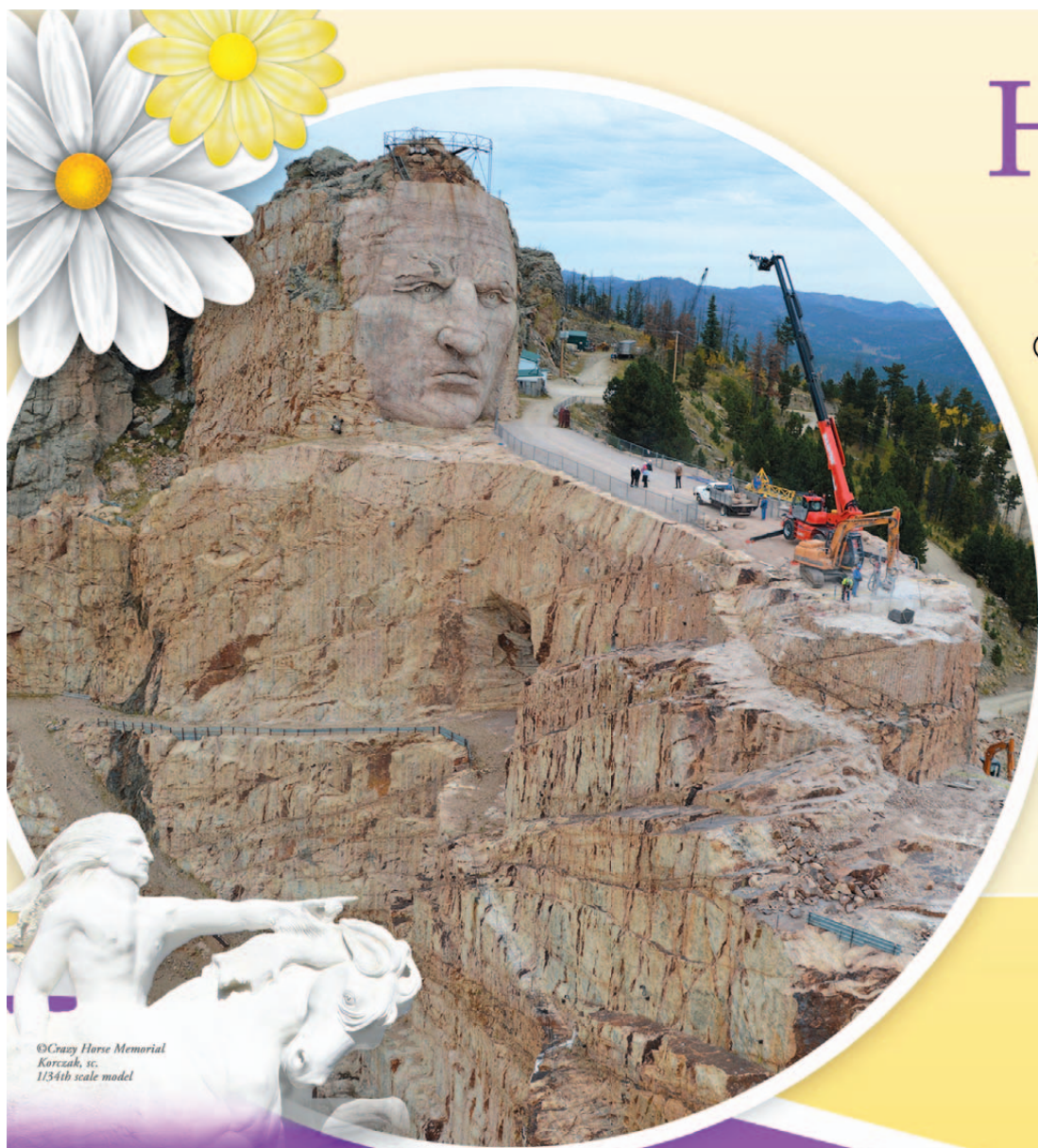
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The PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. It does this by organizing and supporting special events, networking, and providing consultation to individuals and groups, which seek to learn more about the Polish community in the United States.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad.



Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

Your tax-deductible donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation supports our efforts to keep the Polish American community strong for generations to come.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us utilize over 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

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POLONIA PLACES

GREGORY L. WITUL

Polish Home Gary, Indiana

1600 Pennsylvania Street
 Gary, Indiana
 Status: Closed

America has some very famous addresses. Most people know 350 Fifth Avenue is the Empire State Building and a few know that 1313 Mockingbird Lane is the home of the Munsters, but everyone knows 1600 Pennsylvania is the White House. In Gary, Indiana that last illustrious address would deliver you to the club-rooms of the Polish Home.

Poles started expanding into the northwest corner of Indiana in the dawn of the twentieth century. A year after the city of Gary was established in 1906, the seeds for the first Polish parish

were planted. Within two decades, St. Hedwig opened, and the Council 127 of the Polish National Alliance was formed. From members of this council, including Vincent Tomaszewski, John Wasilewski, Angela Kijewski, and Helen Szychalski, a new organization was chartered on March 31, 1923, the Polish Home of Gary. The mission of this association was to raise a building the Polish community could call home. Planning began in earnest, but the onset of the Great Depression put the project on hold.

After the hiatus of the 1930s, the organization was reformed on April 15, 1943 and its members reinvigorated. In May, the committee headed by Joseph Kraszczka, purchased the property at 1600 Pennsylvania Street. Needing some remodeling, the group appealed



The former Polish Home at 1600 Pennsylvania Street in 2013.

to the community for funds and \$7,000 was contributed. On November 20, 1943, a banquet was held marking the opening of the first Polish Home of Gary.

The first Polish Home was small, but created a base of operations for the Polish community. As more organizations like the Polish National Alliance and the Polish New Immigrants Club wanted to use the space, it became necessary to expand the home. Starting in April of 1948 a building campaign was started. The Polish New Immigrants Club donated the first \$1,000 to the project and within five years construction was underway. Headed by contractor Chester Wasilewski-Wallace, the expanded Polish Home would be constructed of brick and have a total footprint of over 9,000 square feet.

On December 27, 1953, Monsignor Louis Michalski, pastor of St. Hedwig's Church formally dedicated the new Polish Home.

The larger Polish Home was a boon for the Poles of Gary. Besides being the meeting place for clubs and organizations, the hall was the perfect size for banquets, balls, wedding dinners, and communion breakfasts. Political rallies were also held at the Home, with future

governor of Indiana, Harold W. Handley, stopping by in 1954.

On April 28, 1963 the Polish Home Association held a mortgage burning ceremony, celebrating the fact they owned their building free and clear. But as they were holding this festive event, the new demographic reality of Gary began to set in. The Greek, Romanian, and Bulgarian churches began to cut services, while the Albanian Beneficial Society folded. Without an influx of new Polish immigrants and many of the younger members of the community moving out of Gary, membership in the Home declined. With mounting expenses and not enough revenue coming in to cover them, it was decided to put the Polish Home up for sale in 1969.

Still Time to Apply for Summer Study in Poland

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation is accepting applications for summer study programs at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. Students and adults who have an interest in learning Polish are invited to apply. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma by the first day of the program. Programs begin in July and run from two to eight weeks. Undergraduate credit is available to students who attend classes and take mid-term and final exams. Programs include language classes, lectures on Pol-

ish history and culture, workshops in dance and Polish traditions, three meals a day, a shared room, and sightseeing on weekends. Airfare is not included in the program fee.

A number of scholarships are available to students of Polish descent for Polish language classes at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Two letters of recommendation, transcripts showing a minimum GPA of 3.0, an essay, and financial need are part of the requirements to compete for a scholarship. Students who wish to apply for a scholarship must submit application and supporting materials no later than April

13 for review by the Foundation's scholarship committee. All others (paying candidates) may submit applications through May 18.

For details and forms visit www.thekf.org/kf/programs/study/.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Anniversary Observations Begin Abroad

A concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra at London's Royal Festival Hall featuring "Stabat Mater" by Polish composer Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937) on March 5 was the first event abroad marking the 1,050th anniversary of the **Baptism of Poland** and of Polish statehood. The event was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and National Heritage Piotr Gliński who, in his remarks during a pre-concert ceremony, referred to Christianity as a set of values which constitutes the most characteristic strand of Polish and European culture.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra was conducted by Vladimir Jurowski, one of the foremost promoters of Szymanowski's music. Interviewed by Polish Radio, he said: "Stabat Mater is ageless. Szymanowski's idiom is as adventurous as that of the avant-garde of his time, if only to mention Bartok.

"But at the same time listening to Szymanowski's music, particularly 'Stabat Mater,' one is not sure if it's a piece dating from the 16th century, the early 20th century or a work written in our times."

The concert was jointly organized by the Warsaw-based Adam Mickiewicz Institute as part of its Polska Music program.

As part of the UK celebrations of the Baptism of Poland, the Polish Cultural Institute in London and the Polish Embassy in London will promote Polish sacred music.

ABUSE ALLEGATIONS. A grand jury found the handling of sexual abuse cases in the Altoona-Johnstown, Pa. Diocese "abysmal." Retired **Bishop Joseph Adamec** tried to defend his position by stating that he followed the advice of psychiatric experts and a strict review process. The grand jury found flaws in the reporting from the treatment centers to which the priests were sent. Adamec in reply declared that he removed some priests from ministry and that none of those returned to ministry had been accused of re-offense. He also argues that using contemporary understanding in cases from a different time and with different approaches is unfair. Needless to say, his explanations are

not convincing and the diocese remains roiled in controversy.

RESTRUCTURING OF VATICAN RADIO. In connections with a total revamping of the Vatican's communications structure, Pope Francis has entrusted the operation of Vatican Radio to Polish Jesuit **Fr. Andrzej Majewski** and a team of more than 20 Jesuits committed to offering the service of communicating the Gospel, the Pope's and the Church's messages through easily accessible multicultural, multilingual, pluralistic multimedia and digital productions.

VANDALS ATTACK PRO-LIFE SPOKESMAN'S HOUSE. In an effort to force **Jill Stanek** to stop standing up for life, vandals hurled a cinder block through a window with the message "Quit the pro-life bull---t." She had been working on building support for the Susan B. Anthony List's campaign to elect a pro-life president this year and advance legislation such as the Paincapable Unborn Child protection Act, which would stop abortion after five months. Stanek, a nurse, became outspoken in the cause of life after her days in Chicago when she saw two hospitals allow extremely premature babies to be born alive, then left to die, as a form of abortion. The born-alive infant protection act had been opposed by Barak Obama when he was a state legislator in Springfield, Ill.

CATHOLIC HS TO CLOSE. The Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg, N.Y. will withdraw their sponsorship of **Immaculata HS**, after 88 years of service. Citing reduced numbers of sisters on staff and increasing expenses to run the girls school, Sr. Ann Marie Hudzina, general minister of the community, made the sad announcement about the closing at the end of the school year. Sr. Hudzina noted that the congregation's numbers have shrunken from 500 to 60.

FREE HEALTH CARE TO ROME'S POOR. Pope Francis' almoner **Archbishop Konrad Krajewski** has opened a new clinic in St. Peter's to serve persons without a fixed residence and in difficulty. Earlier,

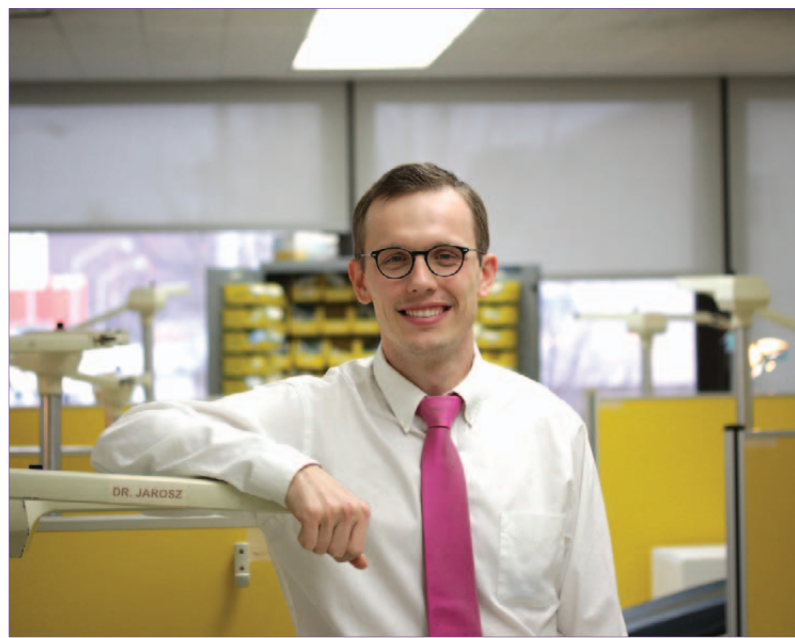
he oversaw the installation of show-ers and even a barbershop for needy persons and also a dormitory for the homeless where residents can stay for up to 30 days. These efforts, and Pope Francis' welcome a refugees into Italian parishes give the lie to the claim that the pope lives in a walled-off city but criticizes building walls to keep refugees away.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD. **Michael J. Ruzala** of Getzville, N.Y. will be given the 2016 Christian Service Award by Our Lady's Sodality in recognition of his work as an author, faith formation director, adjunct professor at Niagara University, speaker at faith gatherings, and director of the parish children's choir. Ruzala is a graduate of Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio and has honors degrees in philosophy and theology. He wrote a book on the life of Jesus and Pope Francis.

BREAK TIES WITH GIRL SCOUTS. The archbishop of St. Louis advised church members to scale back ties with the girl scouts, think twice before joining and or even buying girl scout cookies. He cited the girl scouts links with Amnesty International, which promotes abortion as a human right, and groups which support transgender rights, homosexuality and other stances at odds with Catholic values. **Bonnie Barczykowski**, scout chapter's chief executive, noted that 4,000 Catholic girls are among the area's 43,000 scouts. She declared that the chapter did not address issues of human sexuality or reproductive issues. The diocese advised girls to consider Catholic-leaning alternatives for membership. While the local chapters, such as Barczykowski's, do not engage in all the activities and promotions of the national organization, their connection with the larger organization and its policies is what the archbishop finds troubling.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR. **Fr. James D. Ciupek**, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Alden, N.Y., was named Citizen of the Year in the category of religion by the *Am-Pol Eagle*, a Pol-Am weekly in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jarosz is Tops in Orthodontics



NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The *Journal of Clinical Orthodontics* recognized **Dr. Krystian Jarosz** from Rutgers University as the winner of the inaugural Eugene L. Gottlieb JCO Student of the Year Award, presented by American Orthodontics.

Dr. Jarosz was selected over 16 other students from schools around the United States in a competition judged by members of the JCO editorial board. His prize includes more than \$8,000 worth of materials and travel from American Orthodontics, JCO, and Dolphin, as well as a presentation ceremony at AAO Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla., this month.

Born in Poland, Dr. Jarosz immigrated to the United States with his family at age seven. His interest in orthodontics grew from his own experience in being treated at Rutgers University.

"I feel incredibly honored to be selected," Dr. Jarosz said. "This accomplishment is a testament to all of the orthodontic faculty at Rutgers."

He also thanked his wife, Maria, and his parents Bohdan and Dorota, for their support throughout his education.

MODLITWY

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS. The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. J.K.

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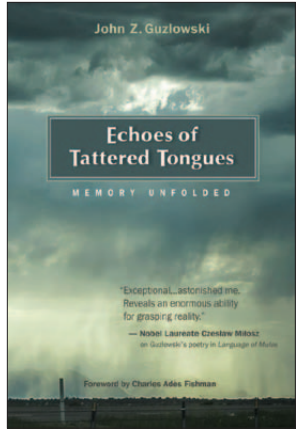
The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt.

Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$40.00. (\$25.00 for students) made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

Guzlowski Shares the Raw Truth

**ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES**

by John Guzowski
Aquila Polonica,
2016, 200 pps.
10850 Wilshire Blvd.,
Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 470-0770
PolandWW2.com

With an unapologetic rawness, John Guzowski gives us his family's memoirs in a mix of poetry and prose in *Echoes of Tattered*

Tongues. In *Echoes* we are shown the stark experiences of his family in three different time periods: his parents' retirement, after the war, and during World War II.

In Book I: *Half a Century Later*, Guzowski opens with a short story about a wooden steamer trunk that his family carried with them from the refugee camp to the United States. For decades, that trunk traveled with the family until finally after his mother's death, John decided to let the trunk go, the trunk that his father made with his two hands. In his words, he "wanted that trunk to slip away into memory the way my mother slipped away, become a part of my past, always there but not there." This sets the tone for the rest of the section which is focused on his parents' retirement in Arizona and their deaths.

In Book II, Guzowski examines his and his family members' lives as refugees in America. The following excerpt from the poem, "Lessons" is about their arrival in Ellis Island and typifies his style. "[T]he docked ship / rusting rising / falling as we wait / for my father / lost somewhere / in the crowd of DPs / in cast-off babush-

kas / black-market khaki / the gray wool / that froze / before Moscow / and cracked / he left to buy / sausage and bread."

The third section of *Echoes*, Guzowski unflinchingly examines his parents' survival against the odds during the Nazi regime. His mother, Tekla, underwent unspeakable loss when she came home to find her mother, sister, and her sister's baby, brutally murdered by German soldiers. Tekla and Jan, Guzowski's father, both endured the horrors of concentration camps in Germany, slave labor, starvation, and other abuses at the hands of Nazis. The poem, "The Germans Who Owned Them" speaks of the dehumanization of those imprisoned by the Nazis. "[A]nd the Germans stood watching / their hunger and then their deaths, / watched them as if they were dead trees / in the wind, and waited for them to fall."

Written over the course of thirty years, Guzowski's collection of around one hundred poems and works of prose is a testament to his dedication to tell his family's story. *Echoes of Tattered Tongues* is now available on Amazon.com and from Barnes and Noble at BN.com.

About the author: John Guzowski was born in a refugee camp after the end of the Second World War. After moving to the United States, the family settled in Chicago. He has been writing for over forty years and has had his work published in national journals such as *Rattle*, *Chattahoochee Review*, and *Marge*. Guzowski has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and won the Illinois Arts Council's Award for Poetry. John earned his B.A. in English literature from the University of Illinois, Chicago and also holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in English from Purdue University. The professor emeritus of English literature at Eastern Illinois University now lives in Lynchburg, Virginia.

NEW BOOKS

An Eyewitness Account of the Warsaw Uprising

"My Boyhood War, Warsaw 1944," by Bohdan Hryniewicz is an intensely personal account of Hryniewicz's life in Poland during the Second World War, centered primarily on the Warsaw Uprising of August 1944. Despite being the longest urban battle between lightly armed irregular forces and the most professional Army of its day — in terms of ferocity, compared by the Germans themselves to the Battle of Stalingrad — the Warsaw Uprising still remains one of the least known chapters of World War II.



In this first-hand account, the harrowing details of life under years of occupation and heavy urban combat are told with disarming authenticity, through the eyes of a 13-year-old boy. Hryniewicz was eight when the war began and 13 when he became a runner to

the commanding officer of a Polish Home Army Unit, making him both witness and participant in the midst of the 63-day long battle. These impressive personal recollections are explored together with the author's broader insights into the connected events that so transformed the map of Europe, and which continue to dictate geopolitics today

Praised by eminent historians, authors and statesmen alike, the author's account stands as a cautionary tale about the brutal and lasting effects of war. As tensions in Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe continue to mount, this book serves as a timely reminder of the ever present dangers of Imperial annexation on Europe's eastern flank.

"My Boyhood War, Warsaw 1944" is available from Amazon.com.

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REVIEW / Richard C. Lukas

Bikont's "Crime and Silence" is the Most Recent Example of Bad History

THE CRIME AND THE SILENCE: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne

By Anna Bikont
New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015.

Anna Bikont, a Jewish journalist who writes for the *Gazeta Wyborcza*, known for its controversial articles on Polish-Jewish relations, follows Professor Jan Gross, a Jewish sociologist, in depicting Polish residents of Jedwabne, Poland, as brutal, avaricious anti-Semites who were involved in the murder of their neighbors on July 10, 1941 either as perpetrators or as passive bystanders who approved of the slaughter.

Bikont interviewed Jews who live or had lived in Jedwabne, ostensibly to reconstruct what happened on that grim day. Unfortunately, her book is not the work of an investigative journalist who genuinely seeks to ascertain the truth of what occurred in Jedwabne. Admitting her own obsession with the tragedy of Jedwabne, Bikont uncritically accepts the testimonies of Jews, who depict most Jedwabne Poles in the worst possible light. Buried within her clumsy, ponderous, and repetitious format, she discovers only a few Poles with any redeeming qualities.

Bikont wants the reader to accept her Manichean division of Jedwabne society—angelic Jews and villainous Poles. This, of course, is simplistic nonsense. No group has a monopoly on goodness. Neither does any group possess a monopoly on evil.

LACKING CONTEXT. It would have been helpful if Bikont had provided some context for the large Jewish population in the area where Jedwabne is located. That area had formerly been part of the Jewish Pale of Settlement of the Russian Empire, which Poland acquired in its war with the newly created Bolshevik state. The Litvaks, as

the Jews were called, tended to be pro-Russian and anti-Polish in their political sentiments and enjoyed an economic status considerably above that of the Poles. They also had a sense of superiority over their poorer less-educated Polish neighbors. Jews of the area collaborated with the Russians in the Russo-Polish War of 1918-21, when the very survival of Poland as an independent state was at stake. Jewish collaboration with the Soviets against the Poles during 1939-1941, when the Russians controlled eastern Poland were responsible for a large number of Polish lives. When the Soviet military offensive brought the Red Army into Poland in 1944, Jews from the area collaborated with Moscow in the arrest, deportation and death of thousands of Poles. In his earlier writings, even Jan Gross, who later became an extreme critic of the Poles, conceded Jewish complicity with the Russians against the Poles. Regarding Jewish complicity with the Russians against the Poles, Bikont dismisses that fact as "ridiculous" and "a phantom of Polish imagination."

Bikont's prosecutorial approach is based on Polish anti-Semitism which, according to her, was pandemic in Jedwabne and the surrounding area. Needless to say, there is no mention of anti-Polish sentiments held by Jews. To be sure, anti-Semitism existed in Poland but it was not a universal sentiment. Moreover, there is a profound difference between "verbal" and "actionable" anti-Semitism. Few Poles were driven to murder Jews. Even in Jedwabne and other areas in the Lomza area, where anti-Semitism was more common than in other parts of Poland, there was only a small number of Poles who engaged in killing Jews.

The fundamental problem with Bikont's book is she repeatedly assumed that what she heard from Jewish sources were accurate and

truthful accounts of what transpired in Jedwabne, a position taken by Professor Jan Gross in his controversial book, *Neighbors*. Her refusal to entertain alternative explanations of events is painfully evident throughout a volume which depends on recollections of people sixty years after the Jedwabne massacre. She devotes, for example, an entire chapter to a man who was six years old at the time of a similar incident in the town of Radzilow.

Psychologists have much to tell journalists and historians about the validity of personal recollections of an emotional event. In a study ten years after the horrific events of 9/11, psychologists discovered that the emotional impact of the tragedy gave people a stronger confidence in their memory than it did in their accuracy. In other words, their recollections were filled with inaccuracies.

Bikont's methodology, which is almost entirely based on testimonies decades after Jedwabne, is so badly flawed that her book is unusable for serious historical purposes.

One of the controversial questions about the Jedwabne matter is the number of Germans in the city. According to the testimonies she accumulated, Bikont claims there were only a few Germans in Jedwabne. One of her eyewitnesses alleged the Germans limited themselves to taking photographs, something that Professor Gross stated in his book. But, according to the findings of the Polish Institute of National Remembrance, the Germans who were armed and in control of the city, orchestrated the crime in Jedwabne. The perpetrators, according to the Institute, were forty Polish men. The remainder of the Polish population remained passive. But there is no evidence to suggest that the passivity of the majority of the Polish population should be equated with approval of the tragedy that had occurred to the Jews as Bikont

strongly suggests.

According to the report of the Institute, one group of forty Jewish men were forced to demolish a statue of Lenin, erected earlier by the Soviets when they controlled the area. The Jewish men carried the remnants of the statue to a barn, where they were killed and buried. Later, a larger group, estimated at 250-300 Jews, including women and children, were led to a barn and burned alive. Armed Germans shot Jews who tried to escape.

THERE ARE STILL QUESTIONS

left unanswered about the Jedwabne tragedy. Among them is the key issue concerning German presence at and participation in the massacre. Dr. Alexander Rossino, author of *Hitler Strikes Poland: Blitzkrieg, Ideology, and Atrocity*, recently suggested a scenario in Jedwabne different from that contained in the report of the Institute of National Remembrance. He wrote: "The evidence by the West Germans, including the positive identification of (SS-Hauptsturmführer Hermann) Schaper by witnesses from Lomza, Tykocin, and Radzilow, suggested that it was indeed Schaper's men who carried out the killings in these locations. Investigators also suspected, based on the similarity of the methods used to destroy the Jewish communities of Radzilow, Tykocin, Rutki, Zambrow, Jedwabne, Piatnica, and Wizna between July and September 1941 that Schaper's men were the perpetrators." This would explain the discovery of bullet casings of World War II vintage that were found at the burial site in Jedwabne.

Establishing exactly what happened in Jedwabne on July 10, 1941 still eludes us.

In her 544-page book, Bikont said nothing about Poland's courageous struggle against the Germans in Poland and on several other Allied military fronts, the successful

activities of the Polish Underground which included prosecuting anti-Semites, the individual and institutional efforts of Poles who saved Jewish lives, the fact that Poles rank first among the people of Europe recognized by Yad Vashem, and the fact that, out of six million Polish citizens who lost their lives during World War II, almost half were Polish Christians. Bikont ignores Polish victimization. But Adam Michnik, the editor of the same newspaper that employs Bikont, got it right when he said: "Poles have a right to the memory of their own pain. And they have a right to expect Jews will be aware of it as well." Emphasizing the villainous actions of a minority of Poles in order to compromise Polish victimization at the hands of Germans and Russians has no place in a book that purports to search for historical truth. The simple truth is that no nation should be judged by its worst elements.

As long as American publishers continue to publish authors who write tendentious articles and books about the Poles, the historiography of Polish-Jewish wartime relations will continue to suffer from quality control. We have a kind of Gresham's Law where bad history drives out good history, making it difficult to determine where sensationalism, propaganda and martyrology ends and history begins. Bikont's book is the most recent example.

Richard C. Lukas is an American historian and author of numerous books and articles in several fields including military, diplomatic, Polish, and Polish American history. He is recognized as a leading authority on Poland during World War II. Lukas has authored and co-authored nine books including: *The Forgotten Holocaust: The Poles Under German Occupation 1939-1944*; and *Did the Children Cry: Hitler's War Against Jewish and Polish Children, 1939-1945*.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 31st year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

For information call (732) 680-0680 or write **POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE, INC., 177 BROADWAY, CLARK, NJ 07066**. e-mail: childshart@aol.com website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Sto lat to Pani Maria Mirecka Loryś



PHOTO: WOJECHEK MUSZYNSKI
Maria Mirecka Loryś

CHICAGO — "Sto lat" congratulations are in order for **Maria Mirecka Loryś** who celebrated her 100th birthday on February 7, 2016, in Nisko, Poland. Her parish church was filled with over 130 well-wishers, family, and friends. Maria's daughter, Ewa Regulski, her husband, Michael, and Maria's son, Jan Loryś and his wife, Carleen, joined in the celebration.

On February 11, at the chancery of the Prime Minister, Anna Maria Anders, chair of the Council for Protection of Memory about Struggle and Martyrdom and daughter of General Władysław Anders, presented Pani Loryś with the *Medal Opiekuna Miejsc Pamięci Narodowej* (the Gold Medal of Guardian Places of National Remembrance).

On February 12, Loryś was honored at a special awards ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, where Andrzej Duda, the president of the Republic of Poland, presented her with the *Order Odrodzenia Polski* (Order of Poland Reborn), the Star of the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. She joins other well-known recipients such as Irena Sendler, Simon Wiesenthal, Janusz Korczak, Omar Bradley, Douglas MacArthur, and Władysław Anders. This medal was presented to Loryś for her many achievements, not only as a young woman working with the Polish Underground during World War II, but also for her steadfast support of her fellow Polish countrymen during the communist era. To this day, she promotes charitable work for Polish families living in the Ukraine, and for members of the Polish communities in Poland and the United States. She is also the recipient of the Commander's Cross, presented to her by President Lech Kaczyński on May 3, 2006.

Prior to September 1, 1939, Maria was a law student at Jan Kazimierz University in Lvov, Poland. At the outbreak of the World War II, she engaged in underground activities, first as a commander of the National Military Organization of Women and eventually as a captain in the Polish Home Army. Following the war, she resumed her law studies at Jagiellonian University. Arrested as a freedom fighter by the communist government, then threatened with arrest, she, along with other political activists, had the opportunity to leave Poland. She travelled to Ancona, Italy, where she met her future husband, Henry Loryś, a Polish Army officer. From

there, they immigrated to England. In 1952, the Loryś family immigrated to the United States.

Loryś then began a 32-year career in Chicago as editor of the Polish Women's Alliance of America's *Głos Polek*. She also served as a national director of the Polish American Congress. She is the author of two books: "History of the Polish Women's Alliance of America from 1938-1958," and "The Detected Memory: Notes about Family, Work, Friendships." She returned to Poland in 2007.



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN
Majteko's "A Conversation with God"

COPERNICUS CENTER INSTALLS COPERNICUS PAINTING. During the weekend of January 9, the **Copernicus Center (CC)** on Chicago's Northwest Side unveiled a digitally reproduced painting by the famous Polish painter **Jan Matejko** titled "A Conversation with God." The 18 ft. by 14 ft. painting honors the Copernicus Center's namesake, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus. The painting depicts the awe-stricken astronomer gazing up at the universe after completing his revolutionary map of the solar system.

The original 1873 painting hangs at the Jagiellonian University's Collegium Novum in Krakow, Poland, but the Center received permission from the university to create this reproduction. It presently hangs at the top of the balcony wall. Unfortunately, it is not easily available for visitors to view and enjoy. A visitor needs to ask about walking up the closed balcony stairs and ask for the lights to be turned on. Apparently, the CC had no other location to place such a large painting.

The stunning painting depicts Copernicus seeking guidance from God regarding his possible conviction of heresy by the Vatican. His theory that the earth was not the center of the universe, but that it revolved around the sun, was not accepted by the Roman Catholic Church. It was not until 1999, that Pope John Paul II officially cleared and defended the scientific findings of Copernicus as well as those of Galileo.

PAMS HONORS STOROZYNSKI. On February 7, almost 500 guests attended the Polish-American Medical Society's (PAMS) 66th Annual Physicians' Ball at Chicago's Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

Following speeches by numerous political dignitaries, PAMS gave special recognition to its guest of honor, **Alex Storozyński**, journalist, Pulitzer Prize recipient, and chairman of the board of the Kościuszko Foundation. It also presented honor-

ary PAMS memberships to **Andrzej Jakubowiak, M.D.**, director of the Myeloma Program at the University of Chicago; **Dr. George Król**, chief of neuroradiology at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York; **Andrzej Matyja, M.D.**, chairman of the General, Oncological, and Gastroenterological Surgery Department at the Jagiellonian University Medical Center; **Jarosław Maciejewski, M.D.**, chair of Hematology and Oncology Research of the Taussig Cancer Institute at the Cleveland Clinic; and

Margaret Szczerbo-Trojanowska, M.D., chair of the Departments of Radiology and Neuroradiology at the Medical University of Lublin.

In accordance with the PAMS' mission, 15 scholarships were awarded to medical, dental, and veterinary students of Polish descent from the Chicago area. Additionally, the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra received funding to support its preparation of the forthcoming "The Haunted Manor" (*Straszny Dwór*), an opera by Polish composer Stanisław Maniuszko.



PHOTO: DARIUSZ LACHOWSKI
PAMS's President Kornelia Krol and Alex Storozyński.

This year's masters of ceremony were reporter and news anchor, Alan Krashesky of ABC7 Chicago, and Candace Jordan, social columnist and reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*. Boney M, a pop/rock/disco vocal group, Second Opinion Dance Band, Rendezvous, a contemporary dance band, and Polonia Ensemble provided the evening's entertainment.

STATE OF ILLINOIS HONORS PULASKI. The official State of Illinois Pulaski Day celebration took place on Monday, March 7, in the packed Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America (PMA). The audience heard a program consisting of short speeches from elected federal, state, city, and county political officials, as well as representatives from Chicago area's Polonia. Bishop Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, provided the Invocation and Benediction. The national anthems of the United States and Poland were sung by Mirosława Sojka-Topor and played by Luciano

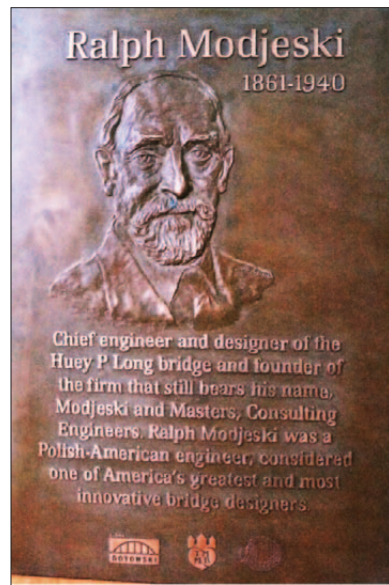


PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN
Pulaski Day at the PMA.

Laurentiu. The 75-minute program concluded with an official wreath laying ceremony at Stefan Batowski's painting of *Pulaski at Savannah* followed by the singing of "God Bless America."

In the State of Illinois, the first Monday in March is designated as Casimir Pulaski Day. Certain state and city facilities are closed, but most schools remain in session. On Nov. 6, 2009, President Obama signed a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives making Casimir Pulaski an honorary citizen of the United States. He is only one of seven persons receiving this honor.

The "Father of the American Calvary," Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski said, "I came here where freedom is being defended, to serve it and live or die for it."



Modejski Plaque

MODJESKI TO RECEIVE PROPER RECOGNITION. The Council of Polish Engineers in North America (CPE) has announced the unveiling of the **Ralph Modjeski's** plaque on the **Huey P. Long Bridge** in New Orleans. The unveiling event is tentatively scheduled for October 2016. The bridge was designed by Polish-born engineer **Ralph Modjeski**. A commemorative plaque was cast using a special metal alloy and was designed by the Polish engineering company, Gotowski Firma, in Bydgoszcz, Poland. CPE obtained permission and support of the bridge owners to install the plaque. A wide range of representatives of Polonia from the United States and Canada will be invited to the unveiling, as well as CPE's partners in Poland.

Modjeski (Rudolf Modrzejewski) (1861-1940) was born in Bochnia, Poland, and immigrated to the

United States in 1876. He had a solid engineering education, graduating from the prestigious *l'Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées*, the School of Bridges and Roads, in Paris. He became a United States citizen in 1883 and received his doctorate in engineering from Illinois State University in 1923. His major bridge design projects included the redesigning of the Quebec Bridge, still the longest cantilever bridge in the world, along with the San Francisco-Oakland Bridge, the Mid-Hudson Bridge (aka Franklin Roosevelt Bridge), the Ben Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia, the Blue Water Bridge from Port Huron, Michigan, to Sarnia, Ontario, the Ambassador Bridge from Detroit, Michigan, to Windsor, Ontario, and many others. The Huey P. Long Bridge was the first highway/railroad bridge constructed in the Delta of Mississippi River and opened to traffic in November 1936. This was one of Modjeski's greatest personal accomplishments, as the best-of-the-best of American engineers were unable to build a bridge in the Mississippi Delta due to difficult foundation problems.

Three years ago, the American Society of Civil Engineers unveiled a plaque dedicating the Huey P. Long Bridge as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, but it does not bear the name of Modjeski. To correct this omission, the CPE decided to place a new plaque clarifying that Modjeski was its designer and chief engineer.

The Council of Polish Engineers in North America is an organization of Polish American engineering organizations, including the Polish American Engineers Association in Chicago, Polonia Technica, Inc. in New York, Polish American Engineers Club of Silicon Valley, U.S.-Polish Trade Council in California, and Association of Polish Engineers in Canada.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

New Officers for Western New York's Polish American Congress



LAWICKI. New WNY PAC prexy.

BUFFALO, N.Y. —The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress held its Annual Election Meeting at the St. Stanislaus Marian Hall on Buffalo's East Side, March 10th. The following leadership was elected for the next two years: **Jim Lawicki** (pres.); **Irena Woszczak** (v.p.); **Andrzej Kucharski** (treas.); and **Michelle Kisluk** (sec.). **Andrew Golebiowski** was elected as one of the group's two National Directors, while **Rick Mazella** and **Stephen Flor** tied for the second seat. The Board was rounded out with the election of Golebiowski, Mazella, **Mike Pietruszka**, **Dina Szymanski**, and **Mira Szramel** as WNY Directors.

The WNY Division will hold its "Swieconka, Installation and Awards Ceremony" at the Polish Falcons Club in Depew, April 2nd. Honorees will include **Greg Witul**, **Christopher Byrd**, **Danielle Huber**, and **Arthur Kogutowski**, the founders of the Buffalo Mass Mob; and radio personalities **Norm Skulski**, and **Ron Dombrowski**.

POLONIA TIDBITS. Also On March 1st, the **Chopin Singing Society** presented a musical evening

commemorating the genius of Frederick Chopin at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW ... Local Polish American attorney **Joseph Augustine** recently passed away at the age of 83 ... In March, the University of Rochester **Skalny Lecture and Artist Series** saluted Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Kieslowski by screening his "Three Colors: Blue," on March 2nd, "White," March 16th, and "Red," March 23rd, at the Dryden Theatre in Rochester ... The **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Torn Space Theater** have received a \$700,000 grant from the Better Buffalo Fund to renovate and expand their performance venue ... The **General Pulaski Association's** Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at the Pulaski statue in Downtown Buffalo, March 4th. After the ceremony, the group hosted its Installation Dinner at the Millennium Motel in Cheektowaga. Kevin O'Connell of WGRZ-TV was the MC, and NYS Senator Timothy Kennedy, Erie County Judge Thomas Franczyk and Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw were the guest speakers. Scholarships were awarded to Zach Strasser, Emily Dunne and Olivia Prusaczych ... Also on the 4th, WNED 94.5-FM rebroadcast "**Polskie Wesele: A Polish Wedding**," featuring Eileen Koterak Elibol, Sophie Knab and Rev. Czeslaw Krysa, twice.

On the 5th, the **Polish Genealogical Society** of New York State and **Mount Calvary Cemetery** in Cheektowaga presented Past PG-SCNE President David Newman on "Polish Genealogy Research," discussing the recently indexed database of death notices from Buffalo's "Dziennik Dla Wszystkich" ("Everybody's Daily") newspaper which was published between 1911 and 1957 ... **St. Casimir Parish** in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood

marked the feast day of its patron with a special Mass, Gorzkie Zale and a Feast Day Dinner, March 6th ... WNED-TV, WNY's public television station, aired "**Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism**," March 7, 13, 15 and 25 ... The **Consul General of Poland** in Toronto, Hon. Grzegorz Morawski, and members of the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce participated in the "NATO Economy Forum 2016 - Mining and Infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe," in Toronto, March 9th.

Corpus Christi Parish in Buffalo marked the Feast of St. Joseph by inviting Rev. Tadeusz Lizinczyk of NYC to preach at the March 13th Masses, with Polish soup, kanapki and Polish pastries being offered after Mass ... The **Polish Cadets of Buffalo** convened its Annual Membership Meeting at its Amherst Street clubrooms in the Black Rock neighborhood of Buffalo, and the **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** held its "Drowning of Marzanna" in the Buffalo River, on the 13th.... Wanda Slawinska spoke on "Leon Czolgosz, President William McKinley's Assassin" at the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society meeting at the Niagara Falls Library, March 15th ... The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo presented **Dr. Szymon Paczkowski** of the University of Warsaw on the topic, "Bach and Poland in the 18th Century," at the group's March 16th meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst.

March 28th was **Dyngus Day**. Post-Lenten celebrations were held across the region. For a wrap-up of the local festivities, including the 10th Annual Dyngus Day Parade, and photo gallery, please visit www.dyngusday.com/ ... The Broadway Market and the Adam Mickiewicz

Library and Dramatic Circle hosted Buffalo's **Best Kielbasa Contest** at the market, March 28th ... The Syracuse Polish Home is offering **Polish language classes** under the auspices of the Fredric Chopin Polish School....The **Professional & Business Women of Polonia** met at Bobby J's Restaurant in Cheektowaga, March 31st.

UPCOMING. The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College and Buffalo and Erie County Public Library continue to present "1989: End of a System," an exhibit chronicling the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe, at the Main Branch Library in Downtown Buffalo until April 24th. The groups also screened Andrzej Wajda's "Walesa: Man of Hope" and "Nine Days that Changed the World" in connection with the exhibit ... The State University of New York at **Buffalo Polish Student Association** will celebrate its Swieconka at the UB Newman Center in Amherst, April 2nd ... Also on the 2nd, the young people from St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Mississauga, Ontario will sponsor a dance at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre to raise funds for their trip to **World Youth Day in Krakow** ... WNY youth who will be traveling to Krakow for World Youth Day 2016 will spend April 3rd, Divine Mercy Sunday, at Annunciation Church in Elma preparing for their journey ... The Professional & Businessmen's Association **Memorial Mass** will take place at St. Philip's Church in Cheektowaga, April 3rd.

The **Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies** of the University of Rochester will present a lecture, "The Europeanization of Holocaust Memory in Eastern Europe" by Dr. Marek

Kucia, April 5th; a concert, "Music of Poland: Chopin Favorites and Modern Masterpieces," by pianist John Andrew Slominski, April 10th; and a lecture by the Hon. Urszula Gacek on "Grassroots Democracy in Poland", April 15th, all on the university's River Campus ... The Holland Purchase Historical Society will host a lecture by Gregory Kinal entitled "**Immigration and the Southside of Batavia**" at the Ascension Parish Hall in Batavia, April 10th. A buffet lunch of Polish and Italian foods and ethnic music will also be offered ... Forgotten Buffalo is offering its "**Pride of Polonia Tour**", April 11th ... Dr. Kazimierz Braun will direct his play, "Tales of Pola Negri," at the Polish Theatre of Toronto, April 16th.

The **Am-Pol Eagle Citizens-of-the-Year Mass and Awards Presentation** will be held April 23 at St. Adalbert's Basilica ... "Krzyz i Orzel" is the event that will mark the 1050 anniversary of Poland's conversion to Christianity at the Polish Banquet Hall in Burlington, Ontario, April 30th ... Local opera great **Valerian Ruminski** will appear as poet Charles Bukowski in "An Evening with Charles Bukowski: Love, Hate and Tears" at the newly renovated Varsity Theatre in Buffalo, May 13 ... The 62nd Annual **Syracuse Polish Festival** will be held in Clinton Square in Downtown Syracuse the weekend of June 10th through 12th ... The 2016 **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** in Toronto will take place on September 17th and 18th.

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If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. April 6 for the May issue) to pietruska@verizon.net.

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydowski

Shea Delivers Insightful Lecture at Long Island Museum

PORT WASHINGTON, Long Island, N.Y. — Lately, there has been a great interest among Polish Americans on Long Island seeking to research their family's origin, their past history and preserve their cultural heritage for the next generation.

On Sunday, January 31, 2016 a lecture, "Introduction to Family Research" was held at the Polish American Museum and co-spon-

sored by the Long Island Division of the Polish American Congress.

The lecturer was Professor Jonathan D. Shea, president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast Inc. (PG-SCNE) He is a foreign language educator, trained archivist and professional genealogist with specialization in Eastern Europe and Ireland. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has recognized him

as an accredited genealogist in the field of Polish research.

Professor Shea spoke on how to research various sources of information on the internet. He stressed the importance of spelling the family name as it was originally, place of origin as well as accessing church, emigration, naturalization and fraternal organization records. Some of the records will be in a language other than English. He also cau-

tioned the lecture participants that, due to wars, some records may be incomplete or destroyed. The partition of Poland and changing of borders will result in cities, towns and villages being in neighboring countries.

The PGSCNE was originally established to actively promote the research of Polish American families in the Connecticut River Valley and to unite all persons interested in genealogy.

OF APRIL AND POLES. April Fools' Day is called Prima Aprilis in Poland. The day's foolery is taken quite seriously: Poland's anti-Turkish alliance with Leopold I — signed on April 1 1683 — was backdated to March 31, fearing the treaty be treated as a joke.

There is a popular rhyme: "Prima Aprilis — uważaj, bo się pomylisz!" — which means, "April Fools' Day, be careful, you can be wrong."

The traditions and the customs are followed the same as in other countries. It is a day full of jokes and fun for the people of Poland. People love to play pranks on their friends, relatives and also on strangers.

April 23, 1973 A United States Postal Stamp was issued honoring **Mikolaj Kopernik**, universally considered the Father of Modern Astronomy. His monumental theory: the earth rotates daily on its axis and planets revolve in orbit around the sun.

April 29, 1939 the **Polish Pavilion** opened at the New York World's Fair.

On April 16 popular Polish American entertainer and singer **Bobby Vinton** was born, and music legend **Walter (Danilowski) Dana** was born on April 26.

REMINDERS. Applications are now available for the 2016 **Polish American Museum Founders Scholarship** upon request. The scholarship of \$500 is offered to a graduating high school student of Polish heritage, U.S. citizen, residing in Nassau or Suffolk County. The student must be entering college in the Fall 2016. Deadline for submitting an application is May 13, 2016. Additional information call (516) 883-6542.

The American Association of the Friends of Kosciuszko will hold their 13th annual **Thaddeus Kosciuszko Conference** to be held at the Thayer Hotel, United States Military Academy, West Point on Friday April 29. The Conference entitled "In the Spirit of Kosciuszko-His Legacy" will featured noted panelists. On Saturday there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the Kosciuszko monument.

A reminder that opening day for major league baseball is April 8 for the New York Mets and April 4 for New York Yankees. Also April 22 is Earth Day, let us take care of this planet, and let's play ball.

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ARTSBEAT / Staś Kmieć

Śląsk Performs at Month-long World-Fest

Poland's *Śląsk Song & Dance Ensemble* will perform at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri on April 7-May 2 (Wednesdays – Sundays) at the Opera House. From Carnegie Hall to Beijing, the company has been seen by over 20 million worldwide. Thirty-five dancers in vibrantly colored costumes will provide a feast for the eye with a dazzling display of movement, grace and precision unlike anything else.

The final year of *World-Fest*, America's largest international festival, will feature performers from around the world including a troupe of acrobats from Africa, steel drum band from Trinidad and Tobago; Island Fire musicians and dancers from Tahiti and Samoa, world-champion Fire Knife Dancers, Ecuadorian pan flute musicians, and an Irish harpist.

Śląsk will provide three 40-minute programs daily of primarily dance suites. For more information: www.bransonsshows.com.



Ruby Lewis and Tomasz Jadach.

Cuba, France, Poland, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States), spanning five continents. Tomasz Jadach (above), Rafal Kaszubowski, Tomasz Wilkosz are part of the Polish contingent. Seth Stachowski of Western New York is the music director.

AMBER BALL –

APRIL 30. The Kosciuszko Foundation *Amber Ball* will take place on Saturday, April 30, at the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Park Avenue at 50th Street in New York City. The featured painting is by Karol Bąk, and is the basis for this year's theme — evocative of Poland's prized gemstone.

Martha Stewart will be awarded the Foundation's Medal of Recognition, and biochemist Professor Piotr Chomczynski will receive the "Spirit of KF Award." Proceeds from the *Amber Ball* will go toward supporting the Foundation's various initiatives and programs. To request an invitation contact: (212) 734-2130 or development@thekf.org. Information at: www.thekf.org/kf.

POLISH ACCENTS IN BROADWAY'S PARAMOUR. Cirque du Soleil, the Canada-based circus-style entertainment company, will take over Broadway's Lyric Theatre for its first-ever made-for-Broadway musical, *Paramour*, the story of a young poet set in the glamorous world of Golden Age Hollywood.

Featuring an international cast of 38 singers, actors, dancers, and internationally renowned aerialists, acrobats and performers, the show blends the best in circus arts and musical theater. The cast and creative team represent 13 different countries (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Belarus, Canada, China,

Previews are scheduled to begin April 16, with an official opening set for May 25. For more information visit: www.ParamourOnBroadway.com.

THE ROMA CULTURE IN DANCE.

Ballet Hispanico, the nation's premier Latino dance organization, celebrates its 45th anniversary New York Season at the Joyce Theater from April 5-10, 2016 with eight performances.

The program will feature some of the company's effervescent signature work, as well as a revival of Ramón Oller's beloved and haunting *Bury Me Standing* from 1998.

The unique culture of the Gypsy or "Roma" people, a marginalized community that has journeyed across continents for a thousand years, inspired the choreographer to create this work. The compelling rhythms and melodies which accompany the ballet — drawn from Eastern Europe (Poland, Russian, and Hungary) and Spain, traditional folk songs, and contemporary world music — reflect the emotional essence and communal bonds of the culture.

Polska Roma are the largest and

one of the oldest ethnolinguistic sub group of Romani people living in Poland. They were nomadic until the twentieth century. The largest ethnic minority in Eastern Europe, they are perhaps the region's most misunderstood, persecuted, and maligned minority. For more information: www.joyce.org.

YIDDISH THEATER EXHIBIT DRAWS ON EASTERN EUROPEAN TIES. Spanning over a century, from the waves of immigration by Jews from Poland, Russia, Romania, Ukraine and Lithuania, *New York's Yiddish Theater: From the Bowery to Broadway*, tells the uniquely American and quintessentially New York story of the phenomenon that turned Second Avenue into "Yiddish Broadway."

The exhibition takes viewers on a journey that left a legacy that continues to inform American theater and film today. Featuring over 250 artifacts, the fascinating exhibition showcases theatrical treasures that introduce visitors to the sensation that was Yiddish Theater, including: pint-sized star Molly Picon's costumes from her performances in *Circus Girl*, *Yankele* and *Mazel Tov Molly*; Mae Simon's jewelry and makeup box, and Zero Mostel's Tevye costume from *Fiddler on the Roof*.



A program and photograph from the production of the epic drama *Der Nes In Geto* (A Miracle in the Warsaw Ghetto), authored in 1944, just one year after the Warsaw Ghetto uprising were on display.

Among the many theater stars from Poland during this era were:



The Dybbuk – a 1937 Yiddish language Polish fantasy film directed by Michał Waszyński, and based on the play by S. Ansky. The story is of a young bride possessed on the eve of her wedding by a *dybbuk* – a malicious possessing spirit.



Molly Picon

Mae Simon (from Grodno), and Mina Bern (Bielsk Podlaski), and Jacob Kalich (Rymanów). Miriam Kressyn, born in Białystok was Yiddish theater and film, songwriter, translator, recording star, radio announcer, historian, news analyst, and teacher, who left an indelible mark on Yiddish culture of the twentieth century. Her husband, Seymour Rexite, was born in Piotrków Trybunalski, was a child prodigy and a theater, film and radio actor and singer.

Born Małka Opiekuń in New York City, the daughter of Polish Jewish emigrants, **Molly Picon** made an indelible name for herself on the stage and in film. Her most famous film (featured in the exhibit)

Yidl Mitm Fidl (1936), was made on location in Poland. Later, *Mamle* was also made in Poland.

The final moment of the exhibition is a large screen showing excerpts from *The Dybbuk* – a 1937 Yiddish language Polish fantasy film directed by Michał Waszyński, and based on the play by S. Ansky. The story is of a young bride possessed on the eve of her wedding by a *dybbuk* – a malicious possessing spirit, believed to be the dislocated soul of a dead person. *The Dybbuk* is considered a seminal play in the history of Jewish theater, and played an important role in the development of Yiddish theater.

The play was based on years of research by Ansky, who traveled between Jewish shtetls, documenting folk beliefs and stories of the Hasidic Jews. It was filmed on location in Kazimierz, Poland, and at the Falanga Film Studios in Warsaw.

For more information visit: www.mcny.org/yiddishtheater. The exhibit continues through July 31 at the Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue, at 103rd Street, Manhattan; (212) 534-1672.

CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

Uszatek the Bear on the Big Screen

The work of the first feature film about the adventures of *Uszatek the Bear* is underway.

Although a short trailer was recently presented, we will have to wait another three years for its premiere.

The initiator of the project is Peter Jasek, and the movie will be directed by Grzegorz Jonkajtys, who works in Industrial Light & Magic in San Francisco, a studio founded by George Lucas. The film will be completed in animation techniques and 3D mock-up shots; stage design is built in the form of miniature models and the characters will be animated by computer. *Uszatek* will remain a teddy bear, who survived several generations of Poles but will be shown in a more modern version.

THE LURE WINS FILM FESTIVAL IN PORTO. *The Lure* (Córki dancingu) by Agnieszka Smoczyńska has

won the Fantasporto Festival in Portugal. The history of the two sirens caught in a love triangle is a surprising directorial debut and one of the best films of the recent Sundance Film Festival. The jury in Portugal has appreciated the movie and awarded it for best director and special effects production. Telling the story of communist Poland and combining different film styles, the movie was recognized earlier both in Poland and the United States. At the famous Sundance Film Festival, it won a special award for "unique artistic vision and design." "The Telegraph" called *The Lure* one of the "strangest and most exciting proposals of the American festival."

WAJDA, THE CARTOONIST. It really is a rare opportunity: since March 8, The Europa – Daleki Wschód Gallery in Krakow has offered the opportunity to look into the sketchbook of Andrzej Wajda, the well-known Polish director. This is not just a chance to see the direc-

tor's great line, but also to see what he thinks of and what he draws in his spare time. Collected by the artist throughout his life, the sketches are also the story of the Wajda himself – of a film and theater director, but also of a young painter. There are also drawings from the '40s to as recently as a few months ago. The exhibition was opened in celebration of the director's 90th birthday.

ETGAR KERET TO BECOME A POLE. Poland has been enriched by a new, world-renowned writer — Etgar Keret!

Born in Israel of Polish-Jewish parents, his short stories usually happen in Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan and Holon, yet his writing is fundamentally Polish. Keret is recognized around the world, from New York and Mexico City to Jakarta, Sydney and Wellington.

The *New York Times* has called him a "genius," and Salman Rushdie dubbed him "the voice of the generation."

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Fresh Greens for Your Table

Spring means fresh greens and vegetables, and that makes it possible to whip up a variety of tasty Polish salads.

POLISH LETTUCE SALAD (zielona salata po polsku). Twist off and discard the core (that holds the leaves together) from 2 heads of Boston or bib lettuce. Separate the leaves and wash well, dry and place in shallow serving dish. If the leaves are quite long, tear each into 2 or 3 pieces. Fork-blend 2/3 - 3/4 c sour cream with juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1/4 t salt and 1/2 - 1 t sugar and pour over lettuce. For lettuce salad with vinaigrette, omit sour-cream sauce, and dress with home-made vinaigrette (below).

VINAIGRETTE (winegret). Combine 1/3 c cider or white wine vinegar with salt & pepper to taste, 1-2 cloves crushed garlic (or 1/4 t garlic powder) and (optional) 1/4 t Provençal seasoning (or Italian seasoning). Mix well and stir in 1/4 c extra

virgin olive oil or other salad oil of choice. Variation: Lemon juice may be used in place of all or some of the vinegar. A pinch or two of sugar may be added.

SPRING-ONION SALAD (surówka ze szczypioru). Wash well, drain and chop 4 bunches of green onions. Sprinkle with salt & pepper and drench with sour-cream sauce as in Polish lettuce salad (above). 2-3 diced hard-cooked eggs may be added.

RADISH SALAD (surówka z rzodkiewek). Trim if necessary, wash, dry and slice thin (with knife or on slicer blade of hand-held grater) 2 -3 bunches radishes. Place in serving dish and toss with 1/2 c finely chopped fresh dill. Salt, sprinkle with 1 - 2 t sugar and drench with 1/2 c fork-blended sour cream.

LEEK SALAD (sałatka z porów). Remove and discard (or freeze and use for soups) green tops from 3

leeks. Cut leeks in half lengthwise and wash well under running water to remove any imbedded grit. Cut each half in half lengthwise which should give you 12 leek sticks. Place them on cutting-board side by side and slice thin. Combine with 2 peeled cooking apples, diced fine, sprinkle with lemon juice and toss ingredients. Season with salt, pepper and a little sugar and lace with mayonnaise. Variation: For a heartier supper salad, add 3/4 - 1 c diced yellow cheese and/or a couple of diced hard-cooked eggs.

COLE SLAW (surówka z białej kapusty). Shred or grate 1 small head cabbage, sprinkle with salt and let stand at room temp 30 min. Pour off any liquid and squeeze dry. Sprinkle with lemon juice, season with a little sugar and pepper and lace with fork-blended mixture of 1/3 c sour cream and 1/3 c mayonnaise. Good with pork dishes, esp. those not containing gravies.



RADISH, CUCUMBER, GREEN-ONION SALAD (surówka w rzodkiewek, ogórka i szczypioru): Trim, wash, dry and slice 2 bunches radishes. Peel and slice thin 1 cucumber. Chop 4 - 5 green opinions. Toss ingredients together and dress with sour-cream sauce as in Polish-style lettuce (above). Optional: Garnish with 2 - 3 sliced hard-cooked eggs dusted with paprika.

COLE SLAW WITH VINAIGRETTE (surówka z białej kapusty z winegretem). Shred or grate and salt cabbage as above. Dress with several T vinaigrette to taste. If using unsweetened vinaigrette, add a little sugar to taste. Some chefs use brown sugar.

COLE SLAW WITH CRANBERRIES (surówka z białej kapusty i żurawin). Shred or grate and salt cabbage as above. Process 1/3 - 1/2 c raw cranberries and mix with 1/2 c raw sour cream. Stir into cabbage and season with a little sugar as desired. Serve with poultry.

PAJ BOOKSTORE KITCHEN TO ORDER BY MAIL Use form on page 7 for all items on this page, and pages 3 and 7 TO ORDER BY PHONE (800) 422-1275 • (716) 312-8088 MON.-FRI., 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. TO ORDER ON LINE: polamjournal.com SECURE SERVER

COOKBOOKS



NEW EXPANDED EDITION: POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK by Sophie Knab \$19.95 337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Lovely illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book.

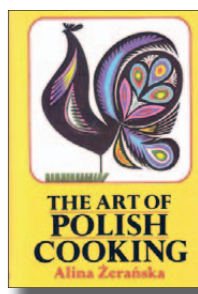
PIEROGI LOVE New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food By Casey Barber \$19.95 Hc; 128 pp. 8.3 x 8.1 inches Full color photographs



This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes

that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogie and fried apple pie-rogies to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierog for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors.

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food. Stories.



THE ART OF POLISH COOKING By Alina Zeranska Pub. at \$22.95 PAJ Bookstore Price: \$15.95 Ethnic / Polish 384 pp. 8 1/4 x 5 1/2

12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg.

Reissued by Pelican Publ., The Art of Polish Cooking, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

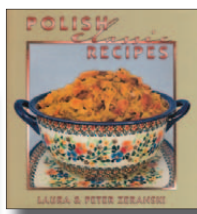
furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.



GREAT POLISH RECIPES by Raymond T. Laskowski \$10.00 Spiral bound, s.c. 62 pp., index 8.5 x 5.5 in.

Published in 1980 and rediscovered this year, this is a collection of four generations of recipes from kitchens in Poland and the United States. Includes appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, breads, noodles, sauces, stuffing, kielbasa, entrees, and desserts. Straight-forward, easy-to-follow recipes for beginners and experienced cooks alike.



POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES \$16.95 by Laura and Peter Zeranski 2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color

photographs by Matthew Aron Roth Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in Polish Classic Recipes has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful

sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.



POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS \$16.95 By Laura and Peter Zeranski 2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100

color photos Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

POLISH PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK: Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond—\$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

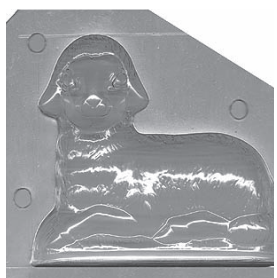
POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK \$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc.

Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Michalczewski: The Perfect Choice for the Role

He's no longer in the ring, but **Dariusz Michalczewski** (right) is still fighting. However, the cause that the rugged boxer known as "Tiger" is now fighting for has surprised some people: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender or LGBT rights.



Tiger, 47, is a former WBO, WBA & IBF light heavyweight champion and WBO cruiserweight champion. For many years the boxing public clamored for Michalczewski to fight American title holder Roy Jones, Jr. in a unification bout, but Jones steadfastly refused to fight Dariusz. Michalczewski had a perfect record of 48-0, within one victory of tying Rocky Marciano's all-time record for an undefeated record by a world championship boxer, before losing a split decision. Michalczewski fought and lost one more time before retiring in 2005 at age 37 with a 48-2 record. Though he mostly fought in Germany, he gained some worldwide attention in 1995 when performer Marky Mark, now known as Mark Wahlberg, released a track called *No Mercy* about Michalczewski. Dariusz was also featured in the video.

Dariusz was born in Gdansk, and began training as a boxer at a young age. As an amateur champion, he traveled to Germany in 1988 and decided not to return to Communist Poland, causing the Polish Boxing Union to disqualify him for life. He went on to box for Germany, and won the European Championship in 1991. He turned pro later that year.

Near the end of his career he founded "Równe Szanse" (Equal Opportunities) in Gdansk. It's a foundation that works to prevent delinquency among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, taking them from the street to the gym. He later expanded his activism to other social issues, including minority rights and, most controversially, gay rights.

In an op ed piece in the *New York Times*, Polish sociologist Sławomir Sierakowski wrote: "Mr. Michalczewski is both a surprising advocate for gay rights and the perfect choice for the role: He is white, heterosexual, Catholic, rich, professionally successful and widely popular, and thus more likely to persuade conservatives than a liberal intellectual or politician."

Dariusz knows it will be a long battle. "I am worried that two generations will have to die off and it will only be the third that will have a normal attitude toward gays and lesbians. I am very sorry for those who are at the barricades fighting for their rights, because they probably won't succeed in their lifetimes. To me, their struggle is like the struggle against Communism."



SHE DANCED WITH THE STARS. Dancers are both artists and athletes. **Edyta Śliwińska** (above) is certainly both, and now a mother as well. After 10 seasons on TV's *Dancing With the Stars* she has started a family and moved on to a different phase in her career.

A native of Warsaw, Edyta started dancing at around 10—very late for a ballroom dancer. At 5'6" she's also very tall to dance ballroom, but that didn't stop her from becoming a top competitor in Poland and eventually throughout the world. She came to the U.S. in 2000, and joined *Dancing With the Stars* when it began in 2005.

Edyta never had the good fortune to win DWTS, but she had some interesting celebrity partners. In 2007 her partner was John Ratzenberger, the actor best known for playing mailman Cliff Clavin in the sitcom *Cheers*. John is Austrian and Hungarian on his father's side, and his mother, the former Bertha Grochowski, was Polish. Despite being 60 at the time and a last-minute replacement, John did quite well; he and Edyta were the sixth couple to be eliminated from the show.

Edyta left the show after 10 seasons to start a family. Since 2007 Edyta has been married to Alec Mazo, a Belarusian dancer who also appeared on DWTS, and in 2014 she gave birth to their son, Michael. It was recently announced that she will return to the show for the upcoming season, and will be paired with journalist Geraldo Rivera.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. **Brad Keselowski** passed the leader with six laps to go to win NASCAR's Kobalt 400, his second win there in three years... Canisius College men's basketball coach **Jim Baron** has agreed to a three-year contract extension through the 2019-20 sea-

son. The 64-year-old Baron has a 461-429 career record over 29 seasons, including stints at Rhode Island and St. Bonaventure...Tulane's 6'8" sophomore center **Dylan Osetkowski** scored a career-high 23 points, including the go-ahead dunk in overtime, as the Green Wave beat Memphis. His older brother, Cory, played for Columbia ... Gonzaga's Polish-born senior center **Przemek Karnowski**, considered one of the country's best interior scorers, underwent back surgery that ended his season. Karnowski could be eligible for a medical redshirt since he played in under 30% of the team's games ... UCLA's freshman center **Alex Olesinski** had an older brother and sister, **Marek** and **Anna**, who were standout athletes at Air Force. Their mother was a member of the Polish National Basketball Team and their father was a member of the Polish National Pentathlon Team ... 7-ft. Polish-born center **Dominik Olejniczak** averaged over six points and four rebounds as a freshman for Drake ... **Tomasz Gielo**, a native of Szczecin, Poland, averaged nearly 10 points a game for Ole Miss ... **Wiesław Rudkowski**, a Polish boxer who was an Olympic silver medalist in 1972, died at 69 ... **Drew Nowak**, who started seven games at center for Seattle this season before being waived, was signed by the Seahawks to a futures contract ... Seahawks guard **Mark Glowinski**, entering his second season, could move into a starting role ... The White Sox agreed to a one-year deal with pitcher Mat Latos.

GROMACKI DELIVERS. The Amherst women's basketball team went 26-1 this season, earning a berth in the NCAA Division III Tournament. They suffered their lone loss to Tufts in early February, but they got revenge with a 50-49 win in the NESCAC finals.



That success is nothing new for **G.P. Gromacki**, who also won his fifth NESCAC coach-of-the-year award this season. Since he took over the Amherst College women's basketball program in 2007 his record of success has been incredible. His teams have now made six consecutive NCAA Final Four appearances and won the program's first national title in 2011. Amherst has reached the NCAA Tournament in each of Gromacki's seasons, while reaching at least the Sweet 16 every year to post a 29-10 overall postseason record.

over his long racing career. Tony 'AZZ,' as he is fondly remembered, was born in Port Henry N.Y., north of Albany. He went on to win the 1969 Formula 5000 Championship, the Trans Am season championship and three International Motor Sports Association season championships. He later achieved cult status through his efforts with the Polish Racing Drivers of America (PRDA), which he founded with friends Oscar Koveleski and Brad Niemcek. The

trio holds the cross-country speed record for a passenger van.

The awards will be presented to the recipients at the 44th Annual Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 23, 2016, at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. Tickets are \$100 and can be ordered by calling (313) 407-3300. Information about the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available at www.polishsportshof.com.



Sisters Anna Jagaciak-Michalska and Monika Jagaciak.

Previously he had great success at St. Lawrence and Hamilton. His overall winning percentage is the second highest among all active coaches across Divisions I, II and III, with only Geno Auriemma of UConn having a better mark.

The South Deerfield, Mass. native studied business at Ohio State. He considered taking over his father's insurance and real estate business, but liked the competition of basketball. In 1998, he got his first head coaching job at Saint Lawrence, and led the Saints to their first 20-win season. In all six of his years there he won at least 20 games, and took the team all the way to the national championship game in 2002. He then spent two years as an assistant at Division I Temple, helping the Owls to back-to-back Atlantic 10 titles. He then returned to D III, leading the Hamilton team to a 20-win year and a first-ever NCAA berth in his only season before going to Amherst.

DIFFERENT PATHS. Poland's Jagaciak sisters have taken different paths, but physical fitness is a big part of both of their lives.

Anna Jagaciak-Michalska is a Polish long jumper and triple jumper, and probably Poland's best long jumper. Her younger sister, **Monika**, is a fashion model who has achieved "super model" status.

Their mother, **Marlena**, is a physical education teacher, while her father, **Jarosław**, is a former high jumper and now coaches track in Poznań. When they were as young as four, the girls were running track and field, and later started attending sports camps with their family. They often competed against girls twice their age.

Anna, 26, launched her international track career in 2007 at the age of 17. By the following year she set a Jr. Polish record in the triple jump. Last July she competed in the 2015 Summer Univesiade for university, and won silver in the long jump and bronze in the triple jump. In July 2014, she married a Polish pole vaulter, **Lukasz Michalski**.

Monika, 22, became a model at

a young age. At 13 she was encouraged by her big sister to attend an open casting of models agency at a shopping center in Poland. Soon afterwards Monika, or "Jac" as she is known, signed a contract with IMG and, accompanied by her mother, traveled to modeling assignments around the world and appeared on numerous magazine covers. Her popularity continued to grow and in 2015 she became a Victoria's Secret Angel.

Even though Anna is the athlete, Monika maintains a daily workout routine, which consists of some 30 to 40 minutes of sprinting, running, and stretching. She credits sports with improving her self-discipline. "I was definitely more mature because of it. Also, you know your body well after years of training—and I know what type of workouts I need to do to stay in shape, or if I have to change something."

LEGACY RESTORED. Professors **Susan Michalczyk** and **John Michalczyk** and senior Cai Thomas produced a documentary film, "Lou Montgomery, A Legacy Restored," on Lou Montgomery, the first black football player at Boston College. The film was screened at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

JAK SIĘ MASZI! He's not Polish, but actor **Mark Wahlberg** somehow picked up some of the language. He was recently on ESPN promoting his movie *Daddy's Home* with costar Will Ferrell, being interviewed by **Lindsay Czarniak**. Near the end of the piece the two actors began talking in fake Swedish, since Ferrell's wife is a native of Sweden. Czarniak interrupted with "I can speak Polish," at which point Wahlberg responded "Dzień dobry!" to his surprised host. As the segment ended Wahlberg added, "Jak się masz!"

Perhaps Wahlberg picked up the phrases from hanging out in the "Polish Triangle" area of his native Boston, or maybe he got them from long-time friend boxer **Dariusz Michalczewski**.

Hall of Fame: Nitzkowski was a two-time All-American swimmer and water polo player at UCLA.

continued from cover

fellow tough guy Bob Probert were known as the "Bruise Brothers" when they played together in Detroit.

Chester Marcol was a native of Opole, Poland who came to the U.S. at the age of 14. He was part of the influx of foreign-born soccer-style kickers who revolutionized pro football in the 1970s. He kicked for Hillsdale College in Michigan where he named NAIA All-Amer-

ican and set the record for longest field goal. Selected by Green Bay in the second round of the 1972 NFL draft, he went on to a nine year NFL career. Over that time he kicked 129 field goals, twice led the NFL in scoring, was named NFC Rookie of the Year, and twice was selected to the Pro Bowl.

Monte Nitzkowski was a two-time All-American swimmer and water polo player at UCLA. He competed in the butterfly as a mem-

ber of the U.S. team in the 1952 U.S. Olympics. The California native later coached water polo at Long Beach City College from 1955 to 1989 winning 32 conference championships. He served as the U.S. National water polo coach from 1967-1984, coaching in four Olympics. He also coached in five Pan American games where his teams won four gold medals.

Tony Adamowicz won several major professional driving titles

RESISTANCE / Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

Charting New Strategies for Operation Tempest

Resistance is a story about the conditions, which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzinski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER 1

The winter of 1942-43, had been brutal. A recent thaw in Warsaw only served to increase the hazards of travel. The main roads were slick with ice. The backroads remained snow covered; commerce and the German military traffic was at a stand-still.

Zygmunt Kaminski leaned against the wall and gathered the ragged cuffs of his threadbare trousers and secured them around his ankles before he pulled on the high worker's boots. A worn jacket and a cap with the logo of the Power Company of Warsaw completed the outfit. The boots and the clothes were borrowed, as was the identity card of a utility worker. He was on his way to Old Towne to conduct an interview.

Kaminski's official *Ausbeis*, work permit, from the labor office of the German General Government listed his occupation as Purveyor of Paper Products. His date of birth, 22 September 1906; place of birth, Poznan, a city just outside the German border. The Nazi Blitzkrieg of 1939 rendered his degree in political science useless. Therefore, he turned his talents and skill to the field of journalism and founded an underground newspaper, *Poland's Journal*. This information was not included on his work permit.



General Stefan Rowecki rose from a restless night's sleep. The folding cot was uncomfortable, and the thick wool army blanket that doubled as a mattress did little to ease the condition. Rowecki had slept under worse conditions. In the First World War, he was conscripted into the Austro-

Hungarian Army. During the Polish-Soviet War of 1920, he rose to the rank of colonel. Cots and cold ground were familiar to him.

During the invasion of Poland in 1939, Rowecki's unit was crushed. Hitler and Stalin were allies at the start of World War II; they signed a non-aggression pact just days before the attack on Poland. Embedded within a minor clause, they tidily divided the nation of Poland between them. Germany laid claim to land west of the River Bug, and Russia ascribed to the territory east of the river following the ever elusive Curzon Line.

After the onslaught, the officers and men who survived the battle, gathered whatever arms and munitions they were able to salvage and stored them in the forest where they organized the Home Army, an underground military force. Rowecki was placed in command. Along with the post came his promotion to general and his pseudonym, 'Grot'.

Kaminski rapped a code on the basement door. Jetka, Rowecki's aide-de-camp, greeted him with a respectful salute. "Good morning Sir, you are expected." He ushered the journalist to the general's desk.

"Pan Zygmunt Kaminski, Sir."

He looked up at his visitor and allowed a smile, "Are your tailored suits in the laundry? And where is that familiar *Hamburg*?"

Kaminski ignored the jibe. He removed the worker's cap from his head and pulled up a chair. "Is there, at least a glass of vodka?"

"Certainly." Grot called out across the expanse of the room, "Jetka, bring two glasses and a bottle."

Grot lifted his glass, "Na zdrowia!" The two men drained their glasses.

Kaminski leaned back in his chair, and looked directly into Grot's eyes. "What can you tell me off the record?"

Grot held the gaze Kaminski thrust on him. "As long as it is definitely 'off the record'.

"I'm charting new strategies for Operation Tempest. I just received a radiogram from Sikorski. He has concerns regarding the original plans."

Sikorski was both premier and commander in chief of the exiled Pol-

ish Government, located in London. A de-facto government was set up in Warsaw under his direct command.

"I thought that was set in stone. Why the change in strategy?"

"The British and the Americans have been threatening to open up a second front, somewhere across the English Channel, to demolish the Germans. Sikorski is concerned that if the allies fail to invade from the west, the Germans will maintain their stronghold, and the plans for Operation Tempest will be doomed."

"What are your plans? Can you tell me?"

"We need to adopt a manageable uprising. I've worked out a feasible alternative. The rising will occur in three phases."

He rose and made his way to a large map on the wall to emphasize the area he had in mind. "Phase one will begin in the east, in Lwow and Wilno, as soon as there is evidence of an invasion by the western allies. Now that the Soviets have ousted the Germans in Stalingrad, Sikorski believes that the Red Army will join our forces, by advancing to the west."

"Plowing us under in their wake."

"My feelings exactly, but Sikorski has taken on the role of diplomat as well as commander in chief." He went on, "Phase two will encompass the zone from the Curzon Line to the Vistula River. Finally, phase three will engage the entire nation. In this manner, we maintain control of the action as we monitor the resistance on our onslaught. This will guarantee full utilization of manpower and weapons, minimizing the cost of lives and ammunition."

He gave one last twirl to the glass he held in his hand, downed the vodka and placed it on the desk, concluding the interview.

Grot wasn't giving an interview; he was venting his frustration. Russia was regarded as Poland's second enemy. Kaminski would file the story.



Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Design Wins Roland Incentive Award

LOS ANGELES — Polish designer Tomasz Miłosz received the "Incentive" award at the Roland Digital Piano Design Competition. His project was one of a very few selected by the jury from almost 130 submissions from all around the world.



The theme of the contest was "Unleash." Roland — a company that has been producing digital pianos and synthesizers for decades — wanted the submissions to show concepts that go well beyond the traditional forms of digital pianos.

Miłosz described his project as a blend of minimalist and futuristic inspirations; hence the simple streamlined shape is covered with

contrasting surfaces of high-gloss brass and classical black piano lacquer.

The Grand Prix went to American Jong Chan Kim, whose project, titled Facet Grand Piano, not only won the jury's hearts with its intricate, elegant design but also offered an interesting solution: using the piano base as an efficient loudspeaker system.

New App Inadvertently Helps Deaf

NEW YORK — In one week-end, 18-year-old Polish entrepreneur **Mateusz Mach** raised the equivalent of about \$150,000 in funding — no easy feat in Poland, where venture capital cash can be hard to find even for seasoned entrepreneurs.

Mach developed a software application (app) called Five. It was initially designed to allow users to send one another custom hand signs, like the kind rappers throw.

When Five was first released in 2015, Mach was expecting people to use it on their Apple Watches and phones as an easy, funny way of communicating simple concepts. For instance, Mach and his friends used it to communicate how far away they were, using a commonly-accepted translation for each hand sign.

But soon, deaf users started coming to Mach, thanking him for making an app that actually let them communicate in International Sign Language (ISL). For something like 80% of the deaf

community, Mach says, typing isn't a natural mode of communication, since they lack any kind of internal "voice."

With this encouragement, he decided Five should become "the world's first messenger for deaf people." Mach hit the road, winning local startup competitions and attracting some media interest as a promising young entrepreneur. Once he had a little bit of buzz, he started hustling for investment cash, "which isn't easy for a CEO when you're still in high school and don't have a network of contacts."

Now, with the money locked in, and investor and designer Piotr Polanski brought on as a co-founder, Mach says Five is going to focus on hiring ISL experts to build the app's features. He has also secured a partnership with the United Nations, including the employment of a New York-based ISL interpreter, to help with the development and distribution of Five in the United States.

SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

Stories of Our Local Host in Krutoyarka

"Sibracy" (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa. Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakhstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

Excerpt from a letter written in winter 1940:

Our host (hazią), a farmer with whom we stay, visits us to chat almost every night. He sits on the bed and tells us different stories: about the civil war between the reds and whites (October Revolution of 1917). He talks about the times when he was sick with typhus and was confined to the hospital. The food there was terrible. He and other sick patients tried to store bread pieces (which they were given with the soup) for the next day under the pillows, so that they would not be hungry. In the morning the bread

was full of lice. They had to clean the lice off the bread, but if the lice stayed, they just ate bread with it. Each morning they had to clean the floor from the lice, using the drawers like shovels and threw them out to the snow.

Our host was giving us many advices: how to do household chores, how to live, how to continue working in hard conditions like we had to, how to relate to local people. He was very kind to us and his advice was very helpful.

Jedrek, my son, was jealous that Mishka has a father. He started calling the host "tatinka" (daddy). The host was trying to be a father for them both, he was placing both boys on his knees, was joking with them and fed them both with the same spoon, treating them both like his sons.

Our host was managing a local village store. You could not really buy anything there, except a couple of sickles and horseshoes. He did not take any money from us for rent, probably since we helped his family to recover from rheumatic pains.

I never saw him be violent or unkind towards his wife. He was a good father, his oldest son was in the military. He also had three daughters: the oldest one was married; Natasha, the middle one, was 14 years old and Helenka, the youngest, was six years old, like my Tereska. Helenka and Tereska were attending school together.

After some time Natasha admitted what she thought about Polish people originally. She believed that Poles are wild people, they have only one eye, walk naked and don't have even an alphabet. This is what their school books were suggesting.

Tereska, my daughter liked going to school. She learned Russian quite fast but not as fast as Jedrek, who was younger. Jedrek was already talking Russian phrases after the first week of being here. For me and Marysia it took longer to learn Russian, but we became sufficiently proficient to survive here and communicate with people without any problems.

Our host was telling us how was life before the revolution, during

tzar's times. In that time, vast land belonged to the heir/landlord, but the farmers never really saw him in the village. The village was wealthier, it had more houses and residents than in the present time. People were more prosperous: each farmer had cows, usually 10-20, horses, pigs and sheep — up to a hundred grazing sheep. All their animals were grazing out at the steppe. Farmers had beehives, vegetable gardens and orchards. Tax collector visited them once a year, in Fall after the harvest, to determine and collect the taxes, which were paid for their farm and grazing rights. The tax was paid in sacks full of grain, honey, hides, salted meat and butter. Farmers had to load the carts with the food and take it to the railway stations where the trade people were already waiting for them. Farmers could sell the farm goods for money or to exchange it for something else. Then they were returning home with variety of products, cloths, shoes, tools, furniture and kitchen pots which had to serve them until the next year and the new tax collection time. Our

host stated that people lived comfortable and peaceful lives. If the weather was good they took a cart or winter sledge to take them to the Orthodox church for Mass on Sunday.

My own experience taught me that after we adjusted to the local conditions we could not complain. Local people are full of hope and optimism and have a strong faith. In spite of the war and miserable life conditions, people try to be as joyful and they can and they sing a lot. We don't hear brawls or fights. People here especially love their children and they do not put too much restrictions into children behavior. This is probably because these people do not have anything of material value here.

The village is quite clean. The papers are not flowing in the air, since we don't have any paper here. The roads and walking paths are trampled down by bare feet. The air is wonderfully clean and clear.



Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us.

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

Poland Charting

First things first: Frank Nice, the humanitarian and author featured in the February Pondering Pole has another son, Frank III, who prefers to go by the Polish nickname "Franuś." *Przepraszam*, Franus, for neglecting to mention you in that column.

Let me not forget to say now: great name!

THAT'S THE TICKER. Often I mention the Yahoo "ticker." For those of you not familiar, if you go to the yahoo.com main page, there are links to mail, sports, finance, and other popular searches and there are also streams of article posts about a number of topics (politics, entertainment, sports, and general news) from a variety of public sources. Those info threads showing only the title, short description, and a small picture, are what I call the Yahoo ticker. Like the telegraphic stock tickers of the past, information is listed down the page in a continuous stream.

I love the ticker, and lately I'm confused, and astounded, and happy. What little news is reported about Poland at all is usually negative and now I am seeing blips on the ticker, almost every day, with some good, some bad, but overall, just news about Poland. Check it out yourself. Here are some examples by title, authors, and some sources from my personal "Poland Charting" during January:

- Tusk, Duda not Poles apart on EU problem of law changes by Raf Casert for the Associated Press
- Polish Prime Minister: No Risk of EU Sanctions Against Poland by Monika Scisłowska for the Associated Press
- Poland upgrading Leopard Tanks in response to new Russian Armata Tanks
- Constitutional Crisis Veers Poland Into Uncharted Territory by Andrew Macdowall

They are predominantly political posts coming from the Associated Press, but the person or group responsible for the posts on the "ticker" has a very keen interest in what is going on in Poland.

Does anyone know who our Yahoo friend is or how to find out who it is?

IT'S COMPLICATED. One of those unknown friends posted an article that made me especially astounded and happy. The title of the article from *Foreign Policy* magazine is "The Moral Perils of Being Polish" by Emily Tamkin.

Her first line of the piece is "Lech Walesa, Poland's legendary dissident, may have been a communist informant, but that makes him neither hero, nor villain — only complicated, like his country." Yes! It is complicated being Polish. If you have a real Polish name, there is the pronunciation thing; there is the negative perception thing; the joke thing; the "didn't help the Jews" thing; the anti-Semitism thing; do I fight or do I compromise or do I go along thing; do the Polish or do the American thing; and all the other things and whatever is the next thing, thing. Life is complicated for us Poles.

And life in Poland during the '70s and '80s was complicated for Walesa. The subject of this work is the recently released documents alleging the Solidarity movement leader may have colluded with the communist government before his rise to power. It seems impossible to believe, as the evidence skews the image we have of Walesa as a simple hard-working-man-turned-hero.

As Niccolo Machiavelli said in *The Prince*: "There is none so disadvantaged as he that will attempt to bring about change. For, by definition, he has many powerful enemies and but few weak friends."

I agree. Walesa was trying to wrestle a minute amount of change from the "Evil Empire." Whether he had a strategy, was confused, or really was a spy, all that seems irrelevant, especially when we think of the final outcome. Ms. Tamkin explains it this way:

"These documents exist in the first place not despite Walesa's longstanding opposition to communist rule, but because of it. Those who were politically active — as Walesa

was even in the 1970s — were more likely to be kept under surveillance, persecuted, and pressured to inform on fellow opposition activists than those who lived quiet lives according to communist strictures."

That is a deeply insightful perspective on Lech Walesa's behavior before and during Solidarity. It is certainly not an explanation that can be understood in simple black or white terms.

She goes on to say

"The people and politicians of Poland lived through persecution, suppression, resistance, and transition. All of that has been brought into its civic life today. There are no angels and villains in civil society in Poland, because there are no such people anywhere, and particularly not in countries that have lived under political persecution and have gone through such intense periods of transition. The Polish people can't afford to avoid reckoning with that truth, for even as the remaining public figures that lived under communism grow old and pass away and are replaced by those who merely remember them, their complicated personal histories are necessarily going to be a part of Poland's political future."

I am not familiar with Tamkin, but her summation of the current political situation in Poland (and really the life and history of the Polish people) is priceless. She is right: Poland, time and again, had to confront and deal with complicated circumstances to survive. We can examine and debate the context and motives to judge the true nature of the personalities and events we read about. History is replete with surprises, and more and more we are learning that historical figures have back stories that sometimes shock and disappoint us. Sorting through all of it can be complicated, but it is also enlightening and rewarding.

POLISH OR NOT? My Polish life just keeps getting better and better. **Heidi Przybyla** is a contributing political analyst on the Fox News channel. Beautiful, smart, Slavic looking, and flashing a killer Polish name, Polish or not?

Mike Souchak, PGA golfer during the '50s and '60s, who won 15 times on the tour, Polish or not? Mike was good enough to beat Palmer and Nicolaus in his career. That is special.

Terry James "TJ" Lubinsky, radio personality and more important, "executive producer/director of many Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) pledge-drive programs. He presents oldies-format music programs airing on PBS." Polish or not? How about a TJ wanna-be film some of the old great polka stars playing a set of their finest hits. "We have operators ready to take your pledges."

❖ ❖ ❖
If you have a thought about this month's topic, an answer to the question, a question, or interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. N.B. If you send email, reference the PAJ or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an email if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

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OUR POLISH SAINTS / Martin Nowak

Raised To The Altar

Part IV

With few exceptions, during the Middle Ages only saints were allowed to be buried in above-ground tombs. This was a not-so-subtle message to the common faithful that the saints were indeed special enough to have their bodies be a little closer to heaven. In some churches, the tomb of a saint served as the altar and even today saints are interred in side altars, hence the saying, "he was raised to the altar" when referring to a person's canonization.

ST. CASIMIR

Kazimierz

1458-1484

Canonized: 1522

Feast Day: March 4

Grave: Cathedral of Ss.

Stanislaus and Ladislaus,
Wilno (Vilnius), Lithuania

He was the son of King Casimir IV Jagiellończyk of Poland and crown prince. Pious from an early age, he often prayed for hours before the locked doors of churches, even in the cold and rain. He rejected the trappings of royalty, wearing plain clothes and sleeping on the floor. When sent to lead an army of invasion by his father, he became disillusioned with the idea, and this perhaps added strength to his pious ways. He developed lung troubles, possibly due to his exposure to inclement weather during his outdoor prayer vigils, and died in Grodno, Lithuania at the young age of twenty-six, heir apparent to the Polish throne. He was noted for his kindness and charity, and his pleasant demeanor even in the face of severe criticism of his religious devotion. Patron saint of Poland, Lithuania and youth.

ST. HYACINTH

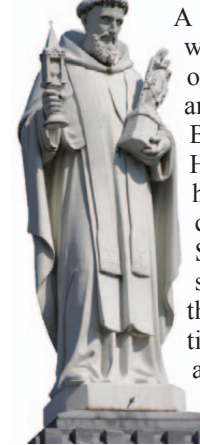
Jacek Odrowąż

1185-1257

Canonized: 1594

Feast day: August 17

Grave: Dominican Church
in Kraków



A statue of St. Hyacinth, overlooking Rosary Square in Lourdes.

A Dominican priest who brought the order to Poland and nephew of the Bishop of Kraków. He received the habit of a Dominican brother by St. Dominic himself. He studied at the best universities and became a Doctor of Law and Divinity. He preached in many countries, said to even have once traveled as far as China. He converted thousands and established many churches and convents. When a church in Kiev came under attack, he was able to lift a statue of the Virgin Mary weighing thousands of pounds and carry it to safety, then walked across the waters of a river to the safety of the other side along with his fellow believers. He is also credited with raising a dead youth back to life. Patron saint of Kraków, Lithuania, weight lifters, those in danger of drowning and pierogi. Legend has it that St. Hyacinth may have introduced pierogi to Poland.

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA

Stanisław Kostka

1550-1568

Canonized: 1726

Feast Day: November 13

Grave: St. Andrew's Parish,
Rome, Italy

Born into a privileged Polish noble family, from a young age he demonstrated religious fervor. He attended a Jesuit school in Vienna with his brother who disapproved of his piety and often beat him because of this. He is said to have once been miraculously cured of a serious illness by a visit by the Virgin Mary who placed the Infant Jesus next to him in his sickbed. As a teen, he decided to become a Jesuit priest against his family's wishes. In order to do this, he had to journey on foot from Vienna to Rome, which severely exhausted him. He died while in Jesuit school in Rome at the tender age of seventeen. Regarded as a model of religious perfection, such was the legend of his piety and devotion to God that he was almost immediately revered as a saint. Patron saint of Poland, youth, students and against broken bones.

ST. JOHN KANTY

Jan z Kęt

1390-1473

Canonized: 1767

Feast Day: December 23

Grave: St. Anne Parish, Kraków

Born in southern Poland and schooled at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, John became a priest and professor of scripture, philosophy and physics at that school. He became well-loved and known for his charity and compassion, a humble holy man who gave away much of what he owned, especially to help poor students at the school. Jealous rivals at the university once conspired to have him removed from his position, but eight years after being expelled he was exonerated and readmitted.

Throughout his life he preached and practiced patience and kindness, and miracles were attributed to him during his life. Patron saint of Poland, Jagiellonian University, teachers, students, pilgrims and the jobless.

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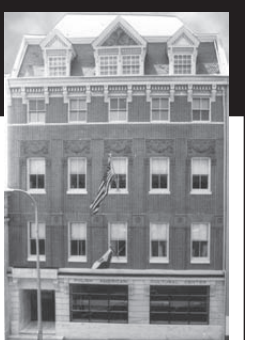
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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

We Need to Verify our Genealogy Information

Compiling your family history is very important to you. It should also be important that the information should be accurate for your children and grandchildren to read. The material that I cover in this month's column may sound ominous, but it should not detract from the fun of finding your family history. Follow the steps discussed not because you have to but because you want to be accurate.

Your search for information should go beyond the specific person. You should research not only the person's life, but the lives of their parents, children, grandchildren, and so on, as needed. You also need to research the counties and towns surrounding each place the person lived.

After finding documents, you now have to analyze and evaluate them for accuracy and relevance. First, evaluate whether the record pertains to your ancestor or family. For example, the Christening record of a person with the right name about the right time may be your ancestor but if they have a common name the record may be a person with the same name and not your ancestor. Look for

other details on the record that may point to your family.

The credibility of each piece of information needs to be determined because some records may contain confusing and misleading information. It is also important to state the source of all information that you find. Knowing your source will help determine the projected accuracy of your information as you analyze, interpret and formulate conclusions from your data. The conclusions you use in your family history should represent the best possible scenario based on the evidence you have after a thorough and exhaustive search.

You should evaluate each category of records differently. Some tend to be more accurate than others. Original sources were created close to the time of the events they record, but derivative sources represent a copy of information from an original source. Derivative sources may have errors because the person transferred a piece of information incorrectly. Every effort should be made to find a copy of the original source. Note that photographic copies, including microfilm,

microfiche, digital, and photocopies are virtually as good as the actual document, although they may sometimes be hard to read.

The nature of the information from the source is also a key factor when evaluating its accuracy. Information is classified as primary or secondary and is based on who gave the information. Primary information was provided by someone who witnessed an event. Secondary information was provided by someone who heard information about the event but did not witness it. Secondary information is hearsay.

Genealogical Proof is the accumulation of acceptable evidence and consists of five conditions that a valid conclusion must have:

- First, your research is thorough and exhaustive
- Second, you list complete and accurate citations for your sources of information
- Third, there must be a skilled analysis and correlation of data
- Fourth, there must be resolution of any conflicts in the evidence
- Fifth, there is a sound, coherent conclusion

that details all the evidence, analysis, and documentation.

Your final conclusions need to be as accurate as can be determined from the information that you find. If your conclusion does not give a definitive answer, you should state in some way that more research is needed. Future research by someone else in your family will benefit from your work if you clearly state the information that you find and accurately state your sources.

There are many more aspects of the analysis of information and documentation that has not been covered in this article. For a greater understanding, please refer to other books on this subject. The book, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, by Elizabeth Shown Mills is highly recommended.



Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," and "Memories of Dziadka."

PROCLAMATION

POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA 65th CONVENTION

In accordance with our Constitution Article V, Section C Number 4 of the Polish Singers Alliance of America, the authorization vested in me as President of District VII, I proclaim that the Sixty-fifth Convention of District VII PSAA is here-by scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 21, 2016.

The Jutrzenka Singing Society #226 will serve as host chorus.

- The premises of the Parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa – St. Casimir Church: 183 25th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232 - Lower School Hall, Rectory Basement.
- Church will be the venue for Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.
- Business Sessions at 9:00 a.m.
- Lunch at 11:00 a.m.
- Rehearsals 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

- Festival-style Concert / Competition at 2:30 p.m.
- Mass of Thanksgiving at 5:00 p.m.
- The Gala Awards Dinner – Dance Banquet will take place at the Grand Prospect Hall located at 263 Prospect Avenue (nine blocks north of 25th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues) from 7 :00 pm to 11:00 p.m.

As President, I urge all the District Choruses to participate with their full delegations. I remind that dues to the Central Administration and District Seven must be paid in order to properly participate in the competition and sessions.

Gora Piesn Polska!

Yaga Chudy

President of District VII

Polish Singers

Alliance of America

POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

Misnomers: Władysław and Jadwiga are not Walter and Harriet

Across Polonia these days, it is not uncommon to encounter PolAms with such first names as Sean, Keith, Kevin, Bruce, Ryan, Brian, Bradley, Connor and Ethan. Among the female half we find Heather, Holly, Jessica, Nicole, Wendy, Denise, Darlene, April, Audrey and the whole string of "modern" names.

That was not the case in Old Polonia, when our immigrant ancestors stayed close to their ancestral tradition. In addition to biblical names (Apostles and other Saints: Jan, Józef, Antoni, Andrzej, Marek, Tomasz, Jakub, Maria, Anna, Katarzyna, Helena, Barbara, Jania, Antonina, etc.), they also eagerly chose what they regarded as native Polish names, and that caused a problem for their kids.

The country our immigrant ancestors landed in was a nativist America. Ellis Island immigration officials, the entertainment industry, the American school and its "Dick and Jane" readers were all out to WASP-ify the immigrants. PolAm kids were often ashamed of names that sounded weird and foreign, so they came up with more English-sounding substitutes. Today many PolAms are convinced that Harriet and Walter are the proper English equivalents of Jadwiga and Władysław. Nothing could be further from the truth. Here are some of the most common misnomers:

Polish First Name	Common Misnomer	Proper Equivalent
Władysław	Walter	Ladislaus
Mieczysław	Mitchell	Miecislau
Stanisław	Stanley	Stanislaus
Kazimierz	Cass, Casey	Casimir
Bolesław	Bill	Boleslaus
Hieronim	Harry	Jerome
Wacław	Wallace	Wenceslaus
Bronisław	Barney, Bruno	Bronislaus
Jadwiga	Harriet	Hedwig
Bronisława	Bernice	Bronislava
Stanisława	Estelle, Stella	Stanislava
Pelagia	Pearl	Pelagia
Czesława	Chelsea	Ceslava
Grażyna	Grace — No English equivalent	
Marzena	Marcia — No English equivalent	

WORDS OF WISDOM

Uczył Marcin Marcina, a sam głupi jak świnia!

Reader input is most appreciated. Please email questions or remarks: strybel@interia or airmail them to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

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Payment is also accepted via MoneyGram.

TRAVELOGUE – 5 Days in Poland / Staś Kmieć

Color and Wonder Abound in Wrocław's Market Square

Part XIX

On the bus riding over the many bridges on route to the Old Town, my eyes are fixed on every aspect of this historic city and its succession of influences. The elegance, Baroque splendor and colorful facades of the Market Square come into view and my adventure awaits.

As I step out of the bus, I am taken aback by the visual splendor of the setting. With wide-eyed wonder, I leave *Mazowsze* to set up and prepare for their evening concert and my wandering exploration begins.

If the Old Town is the epicenter of Wrocław, then the Market Square is undeniably the central hub of the Old Town. This is the very heart of the city, where the life pulse can



Kings, emperors and presidents have been guests at Wrocław's *Kamienica Pod Złotym Słońcem* (Under the Golden Sun)



In 2000, a fountain called "Spring" (*Zdrój*) was placed at the Doves' Square. It was named after the then-president of the city, Bogdan Zdrojewski.

clearly be seen and felt. As in epochs past, The Square is home to large banks, elegant stores and restaurants. At first glance, I can see the centuries-old beauty is combined with a touch of urban-present.

Here Wrocławians and foreigners alike gather to shop, dine, date, do business, or simply just pass the time. The Square embodies the city's slogan as 'The Meeting Place' – a term attributed in recent years after the celebrations of the city's millennium, and now used in its marketing promotion.

Wrocław's Market Square (*Rynek*) was built on the crossroads of important transport routes running northward from the Czech Republic in the south, and eastward from Western Europe. The wealth

of its residents was built on international trade, and the city grew rich from the taxes flowing into its treasuries.

With over 20,000 residents in the 14th century, Wrocław was among the largest cities of Europe at that time. In 1387 it became a member of the Hanseatic League – the powerful union of northern German, Rheinland, Teutonic, Swedish and Polish towns, which monopolized northern European trade and became a political power.

Visitors came for more than just business. Kings, Emperors and Presidents have been guests at *Kamienica Pod Złotym Słońcem* (Under the Golden Sun), *Kamienica pod Gryfami* (Under the Griffins), *Kamienica pod Siedmioma Elektora-*

mi (Under the Seven Electors), and *Kamienica Pod Błękitnym Słońcem* (Under the Blue Sun) – the seventeenth century tenement houses built in Baroque style that were located on the Square. In total, 60 townhouses surround The Square on four sides. Each property has a traditional name, usually associated with the coat of arms visible on the façade, or related to the history of the house itself.

The main square was laid out back in the 13th Century, after the city was razed to the ground by invading Mongols. It has maintained its size and shape, although the grand houses that line every side were constructed and reconstructed with each passing century, and represent every style from Gothic to Art Nouveau. Owing to the almost total destruction of the Market Square in World War II, the majority of the current buildings are 20th Century reconstructions of their predecessors – painstakingly brought back to life by the Poles after they inherited the city in the wake of the war.

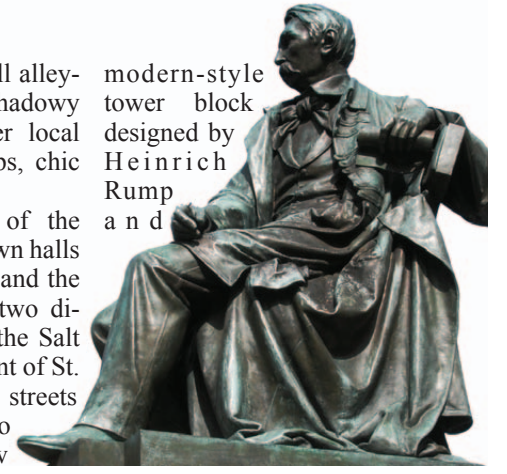
The square is rectangular with the dimensions of 699 ft. x 584 ft., making it one of the largest markets in Europe. It is also one of the most attractive; Wrocław's *Rynek* often draws comparisons with the equally impressive Market Square in Kraków. Wrocław's Square differs most from its counterpart in its middle section – the *Sukiennice*, which is larger. Where trading stalls once indulged in commerce, there are now four rows of brightly painted

buildings split by three small alleyways. Venturing into these shadowy passages, one will discover local gems, such as jewelry shops, chic restaurants and unique bars.

Located in the center of the square are the largest two town halls in Poland – Old Town Hall and the New City Hall. There are two diagonally contiguous areas: the Salt Market and the square in front of St. Elizabeth's Church. Eleven streets lead to the market; two to each corner, two narrow lanes and an opened outside square, *Kurzy Targ* (Chicken Market).

After World War II, the Market Square underwent several changes. A monument of playwright

modern-style tower block designed by Heinrich Rump and



A monument of playwright Aleksander Fredro, which once stood in Lwów, was relocated in 1956.

constructed in 1930.

The Square is the venue for a



The gatehouses at St. Elizabeth's, which is among the oldest churches in Wrocław and the tallest buildings in the Old Town.

Aleksander Fredro, which once stood in Lwów, was relocated in 1956. In the 1970s tram routes were liquidated and car traffic was reduced, and an out-of-place gas station was removed. The reconstructed "Whipping Post," which was damaged during the war, returned to its place.

In 2000, a fountain called "Spring" (*Zdrój*) was placed at the Doves' Square. It was named after the then president of the city, Bogdan Zdrojewski.

Two small and quaint salvaged houses of altar attendants from the nearby church have been labeled "Jaś i Małgosia" (Hansel and Gretel). In a style distinct from the other buildings at the Market Square, there is an original building – a

Christmas Fair, and religious, academic and military celebrations. More than 150 thousand spectators usher in the New Year's Eve at the city's center.

With my overview circle around The Square complete, I check in with *Mazowsze* and then aimlessly begin to retrace my steps in order to take in more details of this intriguing city.

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Postscript: More and more people are discovering that Wrocław is an exciting destination in Poland. This past January the city received a coronation as 2016's "European Capital of Culture."

TO PLAY FIRST CONCERT IN POLAND. American pop-rock band **Maroon 5** will perform at the Tauron Arena in Kraków, Poland, June 1. The band has won a total of three Grammy, four Billboard Music and four Teen Choice awards. Their hits include "Moves like Jagger," "Makes Me Wonder," and "If I Never See Your Face Again."



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Ethnic Jazz to Wrap it Up

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio — After a fun and successful run, Jimmy “K” Krzeszewski has formally announced his band, Ethnic Jazz, will be calling it quits after the completion of the performances already booked. The band will perform a very limited schedule that will end in the fall of 2016.

“Thanks to all,” said Krzesze-

wski. “It’s been a great time with great friends, but all good things must end.”

Plans are still on for the eight-day Caribbean Cruise, Nov. 5-13, 2016 featuring John Gora, Stephanie, Eddie B. Jr., Eddie Forman, Eddie Biegaj, Jimmy K and others. For more information visit: www.jimmykpolkas.com.

Response is Grand for Lynda’s Celebration of Life

by Larry Trojak

The evening was billed simply as “Lovin’ On Lynda” and its goal was simple as well: come together to show Lynda Kurdziel — loving wife, dedicated mother, *Happy Go Strange*-junkie, and cancer battler extraordinaire — that she is not alone. Fighting cancer, after all, can be a lonely battle, made easier only by the love and support of others. With that in mind, close to 1,000 friends, relatives, polka acquaintances, admirers, miscellaneous well-wishers and others, made their way to West Catholic High School in Grand Rapids, Mich., on March 5th to do what human beings seem to do best (albeit far too infrequently): show their love.

People began pouring in to the gymnasium (a structure that seemed large even by high school gym standards) just after noon and the influx seemingly never let up until every seat at every table was taken, the bar was elbow to elbow, the crowds in front of the stage grew deeper and the dance floor became just one large, amorphous, moving mass. The mood was predictably upbeat; people were there, after all, to show support and, as if with a singular mind, that’s what they did. Being continually asked to pose for pictures as she roamed the hall, Lynda is now officially in more quasi-embarrassing shots than Miley Cyrus on the Bangerz tour — and did so without needing an inflatable banana, riding a giant hot-dog or sticking out her tongue. If the geographic breadth of the audience alone were an indicator, LOL was

insanely successful, with attendees from throughout Michigan, as well as Illinois, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Minnesota, North Carolina and Canada. That kind of wide appeal is generally reserved for the USPAs and IPAs, the Ocean Beaches, and the Polka motions but, like Lynda herself, LOL defied labels.

With an undertaking of this size, the variables (and the chance something can go wrong) are many, yet the event went off without the proverbial hitch. Kudos to the planning committee (Kathy and Jim “Wigs” Weglicki, Mona and Gerry Kaminski, and Amy Puhalski — with additional help from Larry and Tracey Stec), as well as the small army of volunteers who did outstanding jobs throughout the evening: working the gate, selling 50-50 tickets, bartending, selling food, badgering the band over the microphone, etc. Without them, all the love that was in that building could not have coalesced to the degree it did.

At its core, LOL was a celebration of life, an outpouring of support for a gal who, despite seem-

ingly insurmountable odds, never fails to embody the spirit of fierce determination. But, call it what we may, this was still a fundraiser, meant to help defray some of the outrageously high costs an ongoing battle against cancer can entail. And people came prepared to show their support as much with their wallets

spirit of giving had infected everyone at LOL and they were only too happy to succumb.

It’s only fitting that, on an evening filled with amazing memories, the highlight of the event should belong to Lynda who took to the stage to thank those in attendance for coming to share the evening with her and

her family. Then, with poise and eloquence, she selflessly took a few moments to remind us of how insidious this disease is, encouraging all women in the audience to be diligent in self-examinations, and prompt to action at the first sign of any abnormality. As she spoke, there was no doubt in everyone’s mind that they were seeing not just a friend onstage offering invaluable insight and advice but rather one of the most courageous, giving people we will ever collectively meet.

Music was, of course, one of the main components of LOL, and the bands — Signal Point Band, Diddle Styx, Dynabrass, Phocus, Gerry Kaminski’s Polka network, Knewz, Michigan Connection Reunion and Dynatones — did not disappoint. From the opening chords of the Signal Point Band’s “Born to Be Wild” to the Dynatones’ extended clos-

ing set and everything in between, great music provided the ideal LOL soundtrack — complete with often-funny but always heartfelt commentary from the stage. It was a special night in which every band played with passion, yet exhibited none of the one-upmanship and rivalry so often found at polka dances or festivals. Bands came to play because they knew that, based on a willingness to help, friendships with Nigel and Lynda, or maybe even a similar situation from their own lives, it was the right thing to do and they embraced that. On March 5th, it was not about who was better, who was tighter, who sang the better tune, who moved the crowd. It was simply about what made Lynda feel great on this one, very special night.

To those who could not attend but would still like to contribute to this amazing cause, Lynda’s GoFundMe page is still active at www.gofundme.com/lovin-onlynda

For those who did attend, who contributed, who did online donations, who helped minimize or negate the costs putting on an affair like this can entail, who in some peripheral way were a part of Lovin’ On Lynda — sleep tight tonight. Your role in all this will not only help Lynda, Nigel, Ben and Marlee breathe a bit easier in months to come, it also helped prove that, when it comes to championing a cause, no one does it better than the polka community.

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Larry Trojak, founder of the Dynatones, is the owner of Trojak Communications in Minneapolis.



THE KURDZIELS. David, Lynda, and children Marlee, and Ben.

as with their hearts. Auctions for items such as vacation packages, autographed sports memorabilia, baskets of cheer, and more, netted sums far above the “asked-for” price. Winners of the many 50-50 drawings repeatedly asked that their share of the prize money go directly to Lynda. All proceeds from literally every facet of the evening’s activities — including admissions, bar and food sales, raffles, bracelet and t-shirt sales, auctions, etc. — went to the LOL effort. It seemed that the

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Where You Should Be

The title: “Where the Boys Are” has a long and storied history. It was first an early ‘60s coming-of-age novel, then later a film based on that same book, then a hit ballad for Connie Francis (who also appeared in the film) which became her signature tune. Now, some 55 years later, the title has reappeared and this time it’s literal, pointing the polka world to the latest CD by six uber-talented musicians known as The Boys.

These six polka veterans, one of the hottest groups working today, present a well-recognized style that identifies them on stage or off. With decades of experience behind their music, The Boys play to crowds no matter where they take to the stage — and never fail to deliver the goods.

The collection of 15 tracks offers an excellent blend of old and new, well-known tunes, and songs that will soon become favorites. Starting with the infectious “Mary Jane” featuring Polish lyrics by John Gora, then on to Li’l Wally’s “Mr. Pan” and “Flirting” polka, the CD is garnering substantial air play on

both traditional and internet-based polka shows — and deservedly so. Outstanding instrumentation, coupled with vocals by all The Boys, and Stacy Morris, yields a masterpiece of a polka recording.

“Where the Boys Are” is where you should be.

The Boys are: Mike Matousek, Al Puwalski, Frank Liszka, Jeff Yash, Mike Evan and Dave Morris.

For information email: mike@theboysband.com or visit www.theboysband.com.

Polkas Lose Bud Hundenski

MOON, Pa. — Leon “Bud” Hundenski, 71, leader of the popular Eastern-style polka band, the Corsairs, died on January 23, 2016.

Born in Canonsburg on July 26, 1944, Hundenski began accordion lessons at the age of nine. He formed the Corsairs in 1967.

For more than 40 years, Hundenski and his band brought their hard-driving rhythm section and classic trumpet and saxophone work to polka fans across the United States and Canada.

Musician and former Pennsylvanian, Robin Pegg remembers Bud fondly.

“In ‘the day’ we often played together, I with Matt Wasielewski and the Polka Jets and Bud with his band. Bud was a very kind man who always had a smile and always had time to talk with you no matter where he was playing. A very talented musician and the best Eastern Style band I have ever heard. His smooth stylings were not only creative but believe it or not, he captured the attention of a younger audience back in those days. Dance floors were packed when Bud took the stage.

“He will be missed by all of his musical family.”

Midwest Polka Association Events

Michigan’s DynaBrass, will play for the the Midwest Polka Association’s (MPA) 14th Anniversary Dance, Sun., April 17, at Withrow Ballroom near Stillwater from 2:00-6:00 p.m. There will be door prizes, cake and coffee. For location directions, call the Withrow Ballroom at (651) 439-5123.

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Minnesota welcomes back Stephanie, America’s Polka Sweetheart, from Buffalo, N.Y. Stephanie and her band will play for the MPA Dance

on Sat., May 7, from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at the Maplewood Moose Lodge, 1946 English Street in Maplewood (corner of English Street and Frost Avenue)

For location directions, call the Moose Lodge at (651) 776-2830.

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Celebrate spring by enjoying the great music of Nathan’s Oldtime Band from the St. Cloud, Minn. area. The band will be playing for the MPA Member Appreciation Dance to be held on Sunday,

May 22, at the historic Withrow Ballroom near Stillwater from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The MPA will provide cake and coffee to say thank you to its members for their and continued support. However, the dance is also open to the public and everyone can enjoy cake and coffee. For location directions, call the Withrow Ballroom at (651) 439-5123.

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For information on dance events, contact Danny Fabeck at dan.fabeck@gmail.com or call (763) 244-0152.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Dramczyk

And the Road Begins

By the time this article goes to print, a couple of major events will have passed: the enormously successful Lovin’ on Lynda fundraiser March 5 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the “BIG 50” Dance March 19 celebrating Jeff Mleczeko’s 50th Birthday with music by The DynaBrass and in their debut appearance, the DynaVersaStickToneAires in Wyandotte, Mich..

The significance of these events lies in the enormous support that polka people have shown for their own, i.e., two well-loved individuals in need after major medical conditions changed their life forever.

When Joe Zalewski took the stage on March 6 in Toledo for TAPS as the interim leader of the DynaBrass, he spoke fondly about Jeff’s courageous journey over the past several months. Joe talked from the microphone about the amazing progress Jeff has made, and how Jeff looks forward once again to taking the stage and leading his band forward.

I had a few minute after the TAPS dance to catch up

with Joe, who told me about the new song “And The Road Begins.”

“The song was inspired by Jeff’s situation. I wrote the lyrics and had an idea for the chorus and melody. It was my collaboration with Kevin Adams that really pulled the song together. Kevin and I worked together to build the flow and he completed the musical arrangement. It was a great experience for me to work with such an accomplished songwriter, I’m looking forward to some future songwriting projects with Kevin.”

“And the Road Begins” was composed in late 2015 after Jeff’s stroke, as a heartfelt tribute to this leader in the polka industry. It is the basis of the new DynaBrass recording as well, and the cover of the CD is a testimony to Jeff’s journey and the beginning of the next leg of that journey.

Mleczeko’s DynaBrass is accessible on Facebook and across the polka miles at numerous events in 2016. For a complete performance schedule, contact Joe Zalewski at JZalewskiTPM@msn.com.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

In Town and Out-of-Town Talent Shines



Bruce and Donna Nowak

Couples were able to enjoy a bargain Valentine's Day date at **Potts Banquet** hall as the **Concertina All Stars** held their annual Hard Times Dance. Armed with any coupon, \$5.00 got you into the door to enjoy an early evening of honky style music. Once in, the bargains continued with \$1.00 draft beers as well as \$1.00 baloney and onion sandwiches. As prices for dances and events continue to rise, at \$5 this dance remains half of the typical admission fee and draws a crowd each year. These musicians belt out familiar tunes which draw the audience out on the dance floor song after song. The enthusiastic crowd inspired the band to continue rolling out the honky upbeat tunes and the hall remained packed until the very end. Towards the end of the night, polka couple **Mike Kubera** and **Deborah Peacock** arrived and announced their engagement. Michael asked for her hand in marriage earlier that evening at the Buffalo Sabres game with the assistance of Sabretooth, the team mascot. Of course, this just added to the joviality of the event. Congratulations to the happy couple as they begin planning the details for their upcoming nuptials.

A VISITOR FROM THE WEST.

With our unseasonably warm weather, polka fans packed into **Clinton Bar & Grill** on the first Sunday of March. Celebrating the spring holidays of St. Patrick, St. Joseph, and St. Casimir, Special Delivery filled the air with a wide variety of music to please their fans, mixing polka music with American music and constantly introducing new material. Although they typically perform



Tricia Butski and Patrick Foran

their most requested songs, they are always attempting something new and switching up their sets.

I was happy to see some Irish green up front as **Pat and Pat Coyle** donned their St. Patty's Day gear in celebration. **Don and Marina Kozak** joined the Coyles and it wasn't too long before I got to see Mr. Kozak at his best. Nothing beats watching Don and Marina glide around the floor to the "Happy and Rich Medley." Watching his enthusiasm for the music, I can only imagine what energy it must give the band. Clinton Bar & Grill delivers the old time tavern feel to polka music. Friendly folks, good music, and room for dancing create a unique ambiance in this space.

During the last break of the evening, a gentleman in a Packers' T-shirt seated at the end of the bar tapped bass player Mark Kohan on the shoulder and asked: "Are you Mark Kohan?" Kohan answered "yes," and the gentleman proceeded to introduce himself, saying that he is from Wisconsin. After finding out that he is a concertina player and has his instrument in tow, Kohan invited him up for a few songs during the next set. It was a magical moment as their already solid band blossomed with the added sound of the concertina. It was sensational to watch a complete stranger pick up and work alongside these musicians as if he had been a veteran of the band. The floor was packed with dancers and the rest of the bar watched in amazement as this out of town musician took to the stage at this small corner tavern in Cheektowaga. He joined them in several songs including "Bright Star," "Stella at the Wheel,"



Tom Goldyn and Dave Miesowicz

"Stevens Point" oberek, and "Nasza Pani" polka, even lending some vocals to the ensemble.

Of course, after they finished, we were all interested to know more about this incognito concertina player. His name is **Tom Mijal** and he was in Erie, Pa. on business when he decided to take a ride up to Buffalo for the day to enjoy some polka music. Many of us, including Mijal, decided to prolong the evening by playing some polkas on the jukebox. All of the sudden Bobby Vinton's "Melody of Love" came in the sequence and Tom picks up his concertina and starts playing along in the cozy bar room. We all joined along singing while the bar owner looked on smiling and enjoying every moment. After that, an impromptu performance continued as Mijal sang and played several polkas on his concertina. **Gary Krupski** lent his voice and joined along vocally adding to this unexpected surprise. Musicians **Kenny Machelski** and **Jim Kaminski** also got a turn playing some chords on Mijal's beautiful Star concertina.

You never know who might show up at a polka dance and turn what seems like a typical polka event into an unforgettable one. During the evening, Mijal filled me in on his love of music and his-



Tom Mijal, Ken Machelski, Carol Machelski, Gary Krupski, and Debbie Derenda.

son being open to lessons. Mijal and his brother began playing in a band called the Blue Stars in Stevens Point, Wisc., a band which was proudly named after his first blue Star concertina. In high school, he joined another local band called the Jolly Harmony 7 and recorded their only LP with them. He has recorded and played with numerous bands including Nu-Trels, Polish Connection Band, Polka Knights, Music On Tap, and String Cheese. Mijal can currently be seen performing with **Family Tradition Band**, which also hails from Stevens Point.



Ray Aleks, Linda Pietraszewski, and Jennifer Smith

I look forward to hopefully catching this band sometime on the road as his talent, both vocally and on the concertina, is impeccable. Mijal has many new friends in the

Western New York area who look forward to seeing him very soon.

AN ALL-STAR EVENING. The TV show *Polka Buzz* is still full steam ahead recording yet another series of shows for the Easter season. An All-Star band chock full of Buffalo musicians will be seen converging to create a unique blend of music. This star studded group of musicians was arranged by **Ricky Krupski** and made the event quite appealing. **Ricky Krupski, Jimmy Nowaczewski, Andy Kuczarski, Art Gaylor, Al Krupski, Kenny Krupski, Mike Kurdziel, Dennis Krupski, Tony Krupski, Don Krupski**, along with our new Wisconsin friend **Tom Mijal** rotated on the stage to perform a well thought out mix of polkas, waltzes, and obereks. I watched in amazement as these musicians unified for a pleasing cohesive sound. These shows will be a true tribute to the respect and talent that these polka musicians have for one another.

Guest vocalist **Kenny Machelski**, and a rare appearance by **Theresa Ryndak** were a welcomed treat to the crowd. I especially enjoyed catching a glimpse of Theresa's mom **Linda Ryndak**, watching her daughter with much love and pride while singing "Never Ending Love." The melodious harmonies of the **Krew Brothers** transcend most vocals you will hear in any genre of music. It is impossible not to take note of these talented brothers on stage. So it was fitting that the last recorded program will showcase the Krew Brothers doing exactly what they do best: performing their musical and vocal talents on fan favorites such as "Judy," "My Name is Michael," and "Birds and Bees." If you get a chance, check out *Polka Buzz* on WBBZ to support this station in their continuing effort to promote the polka music and Polish culture.

Viewing and taping information can be found at www.wbbz.tv.com. The next recording session will be April 14 with Special Delivery, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Spring Fling Polka Party

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Nite Cappe, 1769 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, is holding a Spring Fling Polka Party, Sun., April 10, 4:30-7:30 p.m, featuring Special Delivery. For more information, call (716) 825-9488. Food will be available.



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POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

- APRIL 2**
- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman/Lenny Gomulka. German Club. Pawtucket RI. 6 p.m. (401) 569-6427
 - Polka Family. WVIA TV. Pittston Pa. show taping 3 p.m. (570) 344-1244
 - The Boys. Polish Home. Lyndhurst NJ. 6-10. (201) 803-0909
 - John Stevens/Joe Stanky/Salt City Brass/Fritz's Polka Band. Tioga Downs. Nichols NY. 1 p.m. (888) 946-8464
 - Eddie Derwin. St. Faustina Church. Nanticoke Pa. 7-10. (570) 735-4833

- APRIL 3**
- The Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca NY. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
 - Chris & Ronnie/The Eastern Sound. German Club. Pawtucket RI. 1-6. (401) 569-6427
 - Golden Tones. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
 - Polish All Stars. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 3-6. (386) 258-7059
 - Fla. Honky Bank. Polish Club. St. Petersburg. Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
 - Music By Jeannie. PASC. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
 - The Boys. PACC. Ludlow. Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961

- APRIL 8**
- Jimmy Sturr. Villa Roma Resort. Callicon NY. 2 p.m. (800) 724-0727

- APRIL 9/10**
- Polka Country Musicians/Jimmy Sturr/Mollie B/Polka Naturals/Joe Stanky. Villa Roma Resort. Callicon NY. 8-12. (800) 724-0727

- APRIL 9**
- Walt Groller. Lancaster Liederkrantz. Mt. Joy Pa. 7:30-11:30. (717) 406-6620
 - John Gora. Clarion Hotel. New Kensington Pa. (724) 335-8212
 - Mike Surratt. American Legion. College Park Md. 8-11. (301) 441-2783

- APRIL 10**
- Walt Groller. Arts Quest Café. Bethlehem Pa. 2-5. (610) 332-1300
 - Special Delivery. Nite-Cappe Steak & Seafood. 1769 Abbott Rd, Buffalo, NY 14218 (4:30-7:30) (716) 825-9488
 - Dennis Polisky. Polish Community Ctr. Albany NY. 2-6. (518) 456-3995
 - Polka Country Musicians. PACC. Ludlow Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
 - John Gora. Slovenian Hall. Yukon Pa. 3-7. (724) 722-9700
 - John Stevens. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
 - Mellotones. Polish Club. Belleview Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
 - Polka Pals. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7-59
 - Sounds of The South. Polish Club. St. Petersburg. Fla. 3-6. (727) 868-9763
 - Music By Jeannie. PACS. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

- APRIL 14**
- Special Delivery. Polka Buzz Show Recording, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 7:00 p.m.

- APRIL 16**
- Joe Macielag. St. Francis of Assisi. 73 Adams St., N. Tonawanda. (716) 693-1150. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

- APRIL 17**
- Jimmy Sturr. Caracovia Manor. Wallington NJ. 2-6. (973) 473-8527
 - Dennis Polisky. PACC. Ludlow. Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
 - Phocus. Anchor Inn. Buffalo NY. 5:30-9:30. (716) 896-9762
 - Eddie Derwin. VFW. Dupont. Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5505
 - Joe Stanky. Heart of Jesus Hall. Cornwall. Pa. 2-6. (717) 293-1573
 - The Boys. St. Mary Church Hall. Hamburg. Pa. (610) 562-7657
 - Eddie Forman. Holy Trinity Church Hall. TBA. (978) 452-2564
 - Walt Groller. Germansville Fire Co. Germansville Pa. 3-7. (610) 767-1822
 - Northern Lites. Daytona Polish Club. Daytona Beach. Fla. 2-6. (386) 258-7059
 - Nu Soundz. Polish Club. St. Petersburg. Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908

- APRIL 19**
- Fritz's Polka Band. Finger Lakes Racetrack. Farmington NY. 11-2. (585) 742-7301

- APRIL 21**
- John Gora. Polish Falcons. Depew. NY. 7:30-10:30. (716) 684-2373

- APRIL 23**
- Walt Groller. Sonnybrook Ballroom. Pottstown. Pa. 3-9. (610) 435-7726
 - Special Delivery. St. John Ukrainian Church. Buffalo. NY. (716) 873-5011
 - Dennis Polisky. Italian Center. Poughkeepsie. NY. 7-11. (914) 204-4303
 - Tony's Polka Band. Asbury Festhalle. Asbury. NJ. 8-12. (782) 997-8767

- APRIL 24**
- Eddie Forman. PACC. Ludlow Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
 - Polka Classics. Daytona Polish Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
 - Polka All Stars. Pulaski Club. Holiday. Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
 - Northern Sounds. Polish Club. St. Petersburg. Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
 - Music By Jeannie. PASC Club. Hudson. Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

- APRIL 27**
- Phocus. Leonard Post. Cheektowaga. NY. 7:30-10. (716) 684-4371

- APRIL 30**
- The Knewz. AMVETS 13. Buffalo. NY. 7-12. (716) 480-7174
 - Buffalo Touch. VFW Post 5798. Angola. NY. 8-12. (716) 549-5798

- Fritz's Polka Band. Copenhagen Fire Hall. Copenhagen. NY. 7-11. (315) 688-4103

- MAY 1**
- The Knewz. PACC. Ludlow. Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
 - John Gora. Roselawn Banquets. New York Mills. NY. 3-7. (315) 736-5030
 - New Direction. Polish Nook. Niagara Falls. NY. 3-7. (716) 282-6712
 - The Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca. NY. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
 - Stanky Coalminers. VFW. Dupont. Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
 - Nu Sounds. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
 - Polka All Stars. Polish Club. St. Petersburg. Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
 - TBA. Polish Club. Daytona Beach. Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

- MAY 7**
- John Stevens. Pilsner Haus. Hoboken JY. 7-11. (201) 683-5465
 - Walt Groller. Emmigsville Fire Hall. Emmigsville. Pa. 7-11. (717) 235-4667
 - John Gora. Polish Hall. Delhi Ont. (519) 582-1520

- MAY 8**
- Matty Rock/Johnny Jay. VFW. Dupont. Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
 - Mellotones. Polish Club. Belleview. Fla. 3-6. (352) 345-9378
 - Polka Pals. Polish Club. Daytona Beach. Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
 - TBA. Pulaski Club. Holiday. Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900

- MAY 12**
- Buffalo Touch. River Grill. Tonawanda NY. 6:30 p.m. (716) 873-2553

- MAY 14**
- Dennis Polisky. St. Joe's Polish Club. Colchester. Conn. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550
 - John Stevens. WVIA TV. Pittston Pa. Taping 1 p.m. (570) 626-6144
 - Lenny Gomulka. PLAV. Pine Island NY. 4-8. (845) 629-7477
 - Mike Surratt. K of C. Richmond. Va. 8-11. (804) 377-9110
 - John Gora. Polish Hall. Burlington. Ont. (905) 639-3236
 - The Boys. Monroeville Convention Ctr. Monroeville. NY. (800) 747-5599
 - Joe Stanky Cadets. Monaghan Fire Hall. Dillsburg. Pa. 7-11. (717) 697-8012

- MAY 15**
- Jimmy Sturr/Eddie Forman/Polka Country Musicians. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers Mass. (800) 724-0727
 - Northern Lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach. Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
 - TBA. Pulaski Club. Holiday. Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
 - Eddie Derwin. VFW. Dupont. Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504

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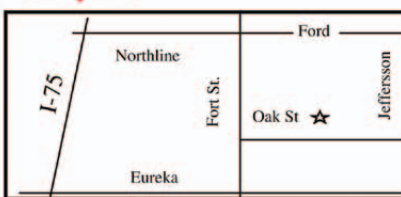


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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

INDIANA

CROWN POINT — An East Chicago man was sentenced to six months in jail after he admitted to nearly sawing off the head of a statue of **Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko**.

Israel L. Soberanes, 34, pleaded guilty to theft, a Level 6 felony. As part of the plea agreement, Soberanes was sentenced to six months in jail, which he already had served while the case was pending.

East Chicago police on Sept. 18 went to a garage after a man flagged them down to tell them he saw two people dragging a bronze statue. Soberanes admitted to being in the garage and trying to saw off the head of the statue when officers arrived, according to court records.

David Martinez, 36, of East Chicago, also allegedly was in the garage and faces a charge of theft. His case is pending.

The statue, which depicts Polish American general Kosciuszko, was previously placed in an East Chicago park named after him. Officials previously said they would like to see the statue return to the park soon. Sculptor and conservator Barry Tinsley was hired by East Chicago to restore the statue.

MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL — May 5-8 are the dates for this year's **Festival of Nations**, which will be held at the RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd.

The theme this year is "Folk & Fairy Tales." The Polish booth will be exhibiting the story of Krakow's

Dragon named Smok. The Polish kitchen will be run by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. If you are interested in helping out, contact John Bieniek at (612) 810-4477 or email him at jvbien@msn.com. The Dolina Polish Folk Dancers are sponsoring the Polish market at the festival.

Hours are: May 5 (9:00-3:00); May 6 (9:30-10:00); May 7 (10:00-10:00); and May 8 (10:00-6:00).

ST. PAUL — On Sunday, May 8 at 3:00 p.m., the **Frederic Chopin Society** (www.chopinsocietymn.org) will present Roman Rabinovich playing the works of Schumann, Haydn, Bartok, and Stravinsky. The concert will take place in the Mairs Concert Hall, Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester Street, St. Paul. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25 each. To purchase tickets through PayPal or get full schedule for this performance, visit www.chopinsocietymn.org. For more information, (612) 822-0123 or e-mail chopinsocietymn@aol.com

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College**, in collaboration with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, presents "1989: End of the System," an exhibit chronicling the collapse of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe, with emphasis on the role of the Solidarity movement in Poland.

The exhibit is currently on display at the Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette

Square, and will continue through April 24, 2016. The exhibit is free and open to the public during all library operating hours.

Illustrated with photographs, posters, press cuttings, personal accounts and documents, the exhibit gives the viewer a behind-the-scenes look at the transition towards democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. From the origins of Solidarity in Poland to the turning point of partially-free elections held in Poland in June 1989, the exhibition gives a comprehensive picture of the interrelated political changes taking place across the region that jointly contributed to the fall of the Iron Curtain.

On Sun., April 24 at 2:00 p.m., a screening of "Nine Days That Changed the World" will take place at the Downtown Library. This documentary focuses on St. John Paul II's historic nine-day pilgrimage to Poland in June of 1979 that created a revolution of conscience, transforming Poland in the European political landscape. The 2010 film was produced by Newt and Callista Gingrich in partnership with Citizens United Productions.

The exhibit was created by the KARTA Center, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York, and the Polish Cultural Institute New York.

For information visit www.canisius.edu/polish-chair/. Further information on Library events is available at www.BuffaloLib.org or (716) 858-8900.

Polish Cereals Producers Visit South Texas



The delegation visited several farms, including those owned by Russell and Scott Boening and their families in Wilson County.

by Elaine M. Stephens
Wilson County News

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The Polish Association of Cereals Producers, visited Texas as part of a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension study exchange.

On Feb. 28, the delegation visited St. Hedwig, where they attended Mass at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church and were greeted by Rev. Bill (Boleslaw) Zadora. The delegation presented a gift to the parish, a beautiful book, signed by every member of the group with warm greetings from Poland.

Following Mass, they traveled to Kosciusko, where they were welcomed by several parishioners of Polish descent at St. Ann Catholic Church. After meeting Msgr. Frank Kurzaj of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Floresville for lunch in Falls City, they visited the first Polish settlement in Texas, Panna Maria. There, they were greeted at the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church by Amarillo Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta and parish pastor, the Rev. Wieslaw Iwaniec, along with mem-

bers of the parish, including several local farmers.

The delegation and the farmers discussed many aspects of farming, including taxes, droughts, yields, GMOs, inheritance trusts, equipment, and their families.

The group from Poland presented a beautiful altar linen embroidered with the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa to the Panna Maria church. The visitors crossed the street to the Panna Maria Historical Society's Visitor Center, then left for Floresville, where they visited the Boening Brothers and Loma Vista farms.

The delegation includes 25 men and women who are members, professionals, students, and leaders in an educational exchange between Texas and Poland. The tour was organized by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, professor and extension specialist at Texas A&M University and president of the Polish American Council of Texas, PolishAmericanCouncilofTexas.org.

More information about the Polish Association of Cereals Producers can be found at www.pzprz.pl.

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